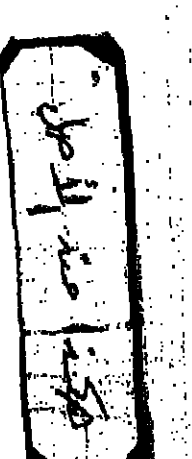


The German Tribune

Hamburg, 15 February 1987
Twenty-sixth year - No. 1262 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Foreign analyses of election query Bonn's role in Europe

Frankfurter Rundschau

Many Western European commentaries on the German general election said that while the Federal Republic was an extremely stable country in political and economic terms, it wasn't playing an appropriately weighty role in the world.

Some said Bonn must assume more responsibility. Some even talked about a leading role.

This criticism may come as a surprise. The old slogan of Germany the economic giant and political dwarf was certainly no longer relevant by the time Helmut Schmidt was Bonn Chancellor (and probably long before that).

In the past four years Chancellor Kohl's government has helped to further the cause of Western European integration.

Spanish and Portuguese membership of the European Community, the aim of establishing a "true domestic market" by 1992 and the European Act, as a minor reform of the Treaty of Rome, are all more or less Bonn's handiwork.

A country that is so outstanding in its economic potential is bound to attract envy and criticism.

In all probability the Federal Republic will continue to handle crises more successfully than several neighbouring countries. This will probably cause more ill-will. So Bonn should reappraise its policy on Western Europe.

In all European Community moves Helmut Schmidt and Helmut Kohl wisely allowed the French to stay at least half a step ahead. Bonn cannot afford to allow itself to talked into openly taking the lead.

The shadows of the past, far from disappearing, have intermingled with present-day admiration and envy.

These shadows include the special status of West Berlin and the division of Germany. Both dictate special care and attention to relations with Moscow and the states of Eastern Europe.

Since the advent of Mr Gorbachov the East Bloc may have aimed at "normal" relations with the European Community, but that widens Bonn's leeway no more than marginally.

What the critics mean is something else: that Bonn's policy toward Western Europe is felt by its partners to be half-hearted and contradictory.

For years the Germans clamoured for a reform of European Community farm policies. For the past two years Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle has stalled on reform moves.

The Federal government championed the European Community memberships bids of Spain and Portugal. Yet as soon as the talk gets round to financial assistance for southern member-states, Bonn Ministry officials start cheese-paring in the Council of Ministers.

Similar ambiguity has arisen in connection with the establishment of a European domestic market. German officials favour any moves that seem likely to facilitate West German exports, but as soon as other sectors arise in which other member-countries hope to gain an advantage German officials stall for all they are worth.

Where others hope to derive benefit — as in road safety or road haulage — the most powerful member-country prefers to be taken to the European Court of Justice rather than to yield voluntarily.

Does Bonn favour a European Community research policy? Yes, but only where Germany can use it.

At times German resistance is due to minor lobbies or Ministry departments in Bonn feeling they stand to lose in the process, as even Chancellor Kohl has more than once admitted.

What is lacking is more determination on the Chancellor's part to get his own way.

There is nothing unusual about all 12 member-countries fighting in Brussels for their petty national advantage, but the others rightly expect the senior partner to show greater generosity and, perhaps, give a tacit lead by setting a good example that helps to change the entire climate of opinion.

In the final analysis the Federal Republic can only benefit from giving this particular lead. Economic recovery in the poorer Community countries is bound to give Germany an economic boost too.

The common economic region comprising the European Community and the European Free Trade Area is in any case the only safe market for West German exports.

The European Community has no need of new and major initiatives in the next four years, but it could well benefit from a swift succession of minor moves to boost cohesion.

No-one can say for sure how far the United States will continue in the 1990s to be able to guarantee Western Europe's protection. In both security and trade policy Washington is paying steadily less heed to its Nato partners.

So Bonn ought to give preference to the "European option" in arms cooperation wherever the opportunity arises. The growing lead West Germany has gained over others in affluence or prosperity is the result of hard work. Sacrifices are unpopular but avarice triggers hostility. Konrad Adenauer's maxim of using cash wherever possible to attain foreign policy objectives was by no means the worst.

Erich Hauser
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 February 1987)



Coalition with Greens collapses

The first and only government containing Greens has collapsed. Hesse Prime Minister Holger Börner, who had headed an SPD-Greens coalition for 14 months, has dismissed his Green Environment Minister, Joschka Fischer (right with Börner) following a disagreement over a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant. Börner now heads a minority government. An early election is likely. (Photo: dpa)

Reagan's reasons for refusing to stop nuclear testing

It has long been clear that President Reagan would not allow himself to be persuaded by the self-imposed Soviet test ban to dispense on America's behalf with underground nuclear tests.

There were two reasons for the President's determination on this point.

First, some tests can be simulated nowadays but nuclear tests now play a new role in the American SDI programme — in connection with the development of high-energy space lasers.

Second, Mr Reagan has always made cessation of nuclear tests subject to the prior conclusion of mutual inspection treaties and the establishment of permanent monitoring facilities with suitable sensor devices.

This has left the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachov, in a tricky position. He had to strike a balance between Soviet security interests and the evident desire to manoeuvre the Soviet Union into a position of moral superiority.

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

The Soviet military system has for some time urged a resumption of nuclear tests, which would have put paid to any idea of making the Soviet Union appear morally better.

Moscow has now decided to call off the moratorium yet preferred not to say when it plans to hold its next nuclear tests.

The Soviet Union may hold back for a while the actual resumption of tests, although preparations can be sure to have been long under way.

What is really interesting is that the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Soviet Union was keen to negotiate a mutual inspection agreement despite calling off the test moratorium.

As a first step in the direction of ending all nuclear tests Moscow was prepared to agree to the two sides negotiating a test ceiling, or reduction, rather than a total ban.

This is a touch of Soviet realism, challenging the United States to try out initial moves, modest but always most important in disarmament.

It must not be forgotten that US and Soviet experts, regardless of the dispute over an immediate test ban, have been in touch and discussing ways and means of inspection and control.

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 6 February 1987)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

A dogma crisis for democratic socialists

The dilemma the democratic Left faces is not a specifically German problem. Everywhere in Europe where democratic socialists — Social Democrats — are either in government or in opposition they face their toughest challenge in the economic sector.

Oddly enough, it is a sector in which they, whose forebears were fed a surfeit of economics by Karl Marx, who are now unable to hold their own.

Helmut Schmidt, who as a pragmatic SPD Bonn Chancellor saw his role — or rather the role he was forced to play — as that of crisis management, is best aware of this Achilles heel of the Left.

In a letter written to Johannes Rau at a time when the SPD Premier of North Rhine-Westphalia was clearly still wondering whether to shoulder the burden of standing as Shadow Chancellor, Herr Schmidt as a former Chancellor and economic expert, warned:

"What are particularly lacking are economic concepts capable of holding their own."

French Socialist Jacques Huntzinger, a leading member of President Mitterrand's party, has even warned that socialism is in a state of crisis.

He was not, of course, referring to East Bloc-style socialism (which clearly is in a crisis, as otherwise Mr Gorbachov would not be so busily ploughing his furrow).

M. Huntzinger was referring to democratic socialism, a European Left that isn't at all sure how to respond to the economic challenges posed by the 1980s.

It used to advocate growth with a view to enlarging the public sector. It needed cash to fund the welfare state, for redistribution and for participation of the disadvantaged in the wealth created by society.

Growth is now limited, if not in jeopardy, and may even be undesirable in view of the threat it poses to the ecological balance.

On the other hand, social welfare can no longer be financed once GNP ceases to steadily grow.

Helmut Schmidt was forced, as one of the first Social Democrats, to arrive at this painful conclusion while still in power. Keen to pursue countervailing policies, he resorted to means and methods borrowed from the conservatives.

He was not alone in being forced into this position. When the French Socialists, in an unprecedented electoral victory, gained an absolute majority in the National Assembly they felt at first they could pursue policies reconcilable with the concept of socialism.

The attempt was doomed to failure, which was why President Mitterrand soon called in an undoctrinaire technocrat, Laurent Fabius, who sought salvation in strict free market principles and either forgot or was left with no choice but to forget welfare considerations.

The position was no different in Austria, where only the outstanding personality of Chancellor Kreisky succeeded for a while in papering over the domestic dilemma.

Kreisky's successor, Chancellor Sinowatz, soon discovered that the economy was backsliding dramatically, while Chancellor Vranitzky, the present incumbent, found himself with no choice but to shore up ailing nationalised industries that have so far stubbornly resisted all attempts to put them back on an even keel.

Debts were run up, which need not be a problem but is bound to become one once loans are no longer able to trigger growth.

True enough, conservative governments more or less helplessly face the same state of affairs. But Western-style socialists have always seen their historic role as being that of a political force destined to eliminate imbalance, restore social justice and regularly lend the economy fresh impetus.

That is why they now feel so at their wits' end. They all need to rewrite their policy programmes, but none has yet been particularly successful in attempts to redefine aims and objectives.

They still aim at fairly allocating available wealth, as the latest white hope of the democratic Left, SPD Saar Premier Oskar Lafontaine, is at pains to stress.

Lafontaine is the standard-bearer of both Social Democratic and democratic socialist hopes on the Continent, and he has chosen not to concentrate on this irksome topic.

He clearly gives priority to ecological considerations. That is why he is so resolutely opposed to atomic energy and keen to promote research into alternatives to nuclear power in the Saar.

Priority for the environment shares pride of place with priority for peace. Both are issues clearly staked out by the Greens, a party that is nowhere stronger than in the Federal Republic and thus not taken as seriously outside Germany as it inevitably must within the Federal Republic.

Democratic socialists have for decades been accustomed to having only totalitarian communists to their political Left — and to having little difficulty in dealing with *them*.

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

They were no problem in Germany, where the GDR as a Soviet-style German state was not exactly an inviting alternative.

In other European countries the problem was tougher, especially in France and Italy where the Communists invariably came within the constitutional spectrum and enjoyed widespread electoral support.

Yet in France the Communists are in a state of decline, while in Italy they have yet to find a final ideological niche they can call their own. The communist parties in both countries are largely concerned with themselves.

Not so the Greens, the new Left. They were long reprehensibly underestimated and now seem to be gaining further support effortlessly — from the ranks of old-style democratic socialist left-wing voters.

Small wonder that the tussle over ideas among Social Democrats in Germany and elsewhere shows signs of panic.

On behalf of all European political parties, or so it would seem, Germany's Social Democrats have, as so often in the past, shouldered an oppressive programmatic burden.

They aim to clarify whether by revising principles they can regain, wholly or in part, the attraction they have forfeited to the Greens.

As always when a political party embarks on a quest for orientation, its wings flap more wildly than is otherwise the case.

Helmut Bauer

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 2 February 1987)

Bonn and Paris seek common line on East-West politics

Even before the Bonn coalition talks began, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher spent five hours conferring in Paris with his French opposite number, Jean-Bernard Raimond, and an hour each with President Mitterrand and Premier Chirac.

His aim was not to consolidate his negotiating position in Bonn as a senior member of the junior coalition partners, the Free Democrats.

Herr Genscher's purpose, entirely in keeping with Chancellor Kohl's policy, was to stress the great importance the German government will continue to attach to Franco-German cooperation in the years ahead.

Bonn attaches importance to this joint role in both European integration and the promotion of European interests. Chancellor Kohl himself plans to meet President Mitterrand and Premier Chirac soon.

Since the Reykjavik summit the main aim has been to bridge gaps not covered by the superpowers in their talks. This is for the Europeans themselves to do, and the others expect Bonn and Paris to take the lead in this as in other respects.

Herr Genscher and M. Raimond dealt with other issues, such as expansion of the European Community, reform of the Community's budget and farm policies, consolidation of economic structures, technology and aerospace research.

Transatlantic ties were naturally reviewed, as was the situation in the Near and Middle East, terrorism and hostage-taking. But the crucial issue is an attempt to arrive at a comprehensive common approach to East-West affairs.

M. Chirac gave the lead in December when he called, in a speech to the assembly of the Western European Union (WEU), for a European security charter.

It is self-evident that neighbouring France and Germany must first agree on such a catalogue of principles before it can be presented with any real prospect of success to the WEU, a European-only mutual assistance pact.

M. Chirac proposed five points. They were:

- There is no alternative to the nuclear deterrent as a means of preventing war in Europe.
- The concepts of deterrence and arms control must be based on the entire gamut of the threat posed by nuclear, conventional and chemical weapons.
- Effective deterrence in Europe requires a strategic link with the United States and the presence of conventional and nuclear US forces.
- Secure defence of Western Europe at an appropriate level and including the independent Anglo-French nuclear deterrent is an absolute prerequsite of European political strength.
- Arms control must ensure security by means of balanced, realistic and verifiable agreements at a lower arms level.

Initially the catalogue presented by M. Chirac was merely a French response to exaggerated views on the superpowers' part that had come to light in the Icelandic capital.

It was Bonn that saw the possibility of using the five points as a starting-point for discussions on a cohesive European contribution toward East-West policy.

The German government would like to see the five points enhanced by a clearer formulation of the connection between the analysis of threat and the objectives of European arms control policy and by an offer of comprehensive economic, technological and cultural cooperation with the East.

Both are important for the impending negotiations on the conventional balance of power in Europe with a view to stabilising it at a lower level than at present.

The one is the sine qua non of a well-rounded negotiating concept. The other is indispensable because only a suitable offer of compensation in the sectors mentioned will persuade Moscow to fulfill the terms of reciprocal non-aggressive capacity.

These include phasing out superior Soviet arms capacity in main battle tanks, advance artillery, combat helicopters, fighter bombers and, last but not least, short-range conventional and nuclear missiles.

Regardless what comes in the wake of Reykjavik, there will be no change in the superpowers' nuclear stalemate. So conventional overarmament, with the imbalance it entails, will emerge as the main obstacle to detente and the establishment of a secured peace system.

Mr Gorbachov's canvassing of support for his idea of the "common European house" will for one need putting on the testbed, always assuming the West has any serious intention of putting it to the test.

A conventional balance of power at a lower level similarly presupposes improvements in Western European defence capability such as an extended air defence capacity, European reconnaissance capacity and a uniform strategic doctrine.

This is the potential link between what initially were different approaches: Bonn's largely conceptual outlook and the French preference for specific projects.

The Bonn government would admittedly need to reappraise a number of negative, expensive decisions on, say, the European reconnaissance satellite project and other arms cooperation proposals.

The basic outlines of an overall East-West policy concept have been apparent since the Helsinki accords on security and cooperation in Europe.

They incorporate all major aspects of the peace system that Adenauer and de Gaulle envisaged as the shape of things to come for Europe.

That undeniably still leaves a number of stumbling-blocks on the road to a common foreign policy.

There is also a definite backlog of mutual understanding and fulfilment of verbal promises to make good. And there is an opportunity for Europe to resume its historic role.

Wolf J. Bell

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 5 February 1987)

The German Tribune

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, D-2000 Hamburg 76, Tel. 22 85 1, Telex 02-14733

Editor-in-chief: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Simon Burnett. — Distribution manager: Georgine Picone

Advertising rates list No. 15
Annual subscription DM 45

Printed by CW Niemeyer-Druck, Hameln.

Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011

Articles in THE GERMAN TRIBUNE are translated from the original text and published by agreement with leading newspapers in the Federal Republic of Germany

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper between asterisks, above your address.

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Election result no green light for government to twiddle its thumbs

Chancellor Kohl and the CDU interpret the coalition general election win as an acknowledgement of the government's achievements. The reduced majority and its implicit warning are regarded as less important factors.

They are correct in that what counts is the fact that the coalition has reasserted its position.

One way of justifying this interpretation of the election is to say that the CDU and CSU did not lose votes because of a rejection in principle of conservative values, but because of other factors such as an electoral shift to the FDP, farmers' abstentions or a mixture of premature confidence of victory and winter-weather lethargy.

But is this true? Was the result really no more than a setback? Can the CDU simply try to close its ranks and carry on as if nothing has happened?

The party should not merely sit back and do what it has always been able to do best, that is, safeguard the status quo, make sure the economy and society function smoothly, and try to serve varying interests with the aim of pleasing everyone and offending no-one.

This, of course, is essential, and it is true that the conservative parties were elected because they were felt to be the best parties for the job.

On the other hand, it may also explain the party's poorer performance.

Süddeutsche Zeitung

In other words, the fact that the CDU and CSU were unable to turn the favourable economic situation, their own election campaign form and the weakness of their rivals into votes may also be due to the fact that the campaign was too obviously geared to maintaining the status quo.

As Warnfried Dettling, head of the planning division in the CDU headquarters, explained in a critical post-election analysis, voters feel that "they are living in a period of radical change and that the remedies for the ills of yesteryear are no longer applicable today".

A great deal would suggest that the "coalition of the centre", which, regardless of how one may feel about this label, owes its ability to stay in power to the political centre, would not be able to retain this power much longer if it relied solely on the silent majority of producing and consuming voters who simply let the Bonn Chancellor get on with the job.

The political centre has become more mobile, and the CDU must follow suit if it intends securing its support.

The CDU came to power in 1982/83 because the electorate expected a consolidation of the social developments which had become unpredictable.

Today, however, the CDU must move with the times and address, shape and control social change if it intends staying in power.

The party would inevitably lose support by just doing nothing.

Apart from the current in-fighting within the coalition the election result has exposed a traditional conflict in the CDU.

The CDU has always been torn between two positions.

On the one hand, there was the party of the Chancellor and of government, marked by a considerable instinct for power, pragmatic, bringing ideological arguments to bear whenever deemed necessary and generally at one with the status quo.

On the other hand, there is also a party with programmatic ambitions, open to social change, value-oriented and more tolerant.

The latter was particularly true during the early years of the CDU and its years as an opposition party.

The party congress in Hamburg in 1973 marked the beginning of the CDU's active involvement in the field of social policy.

The Mannheim declaration in 1975 and the basic policy programme in 1978 were also characterised by an opening up of the party to new ideas and a process of rethinking.

After the 1980 general election, in which the CDU almost did as poorly as in this year's election, the party promised to place greater emphasis on "soft topics", to seek a new kind of social dialogue and to take into account ecological problems.

The CDU undoudtedly did so well during the 1983 general election because of this reorientation.

Since then, however, the party has relapsed into the role of Chancellor and government party.

Admittedly, the CDU business manager, Heiner Geissler, organised a spectacular women's conference, and the courageous and often unconventional Rita Süssmuth became cabinet minister.

Other cabinet ministers such as Norbert Blüm or Heinz Riesenhuber, Baden-Württemberg's premier Lothar Späth, the Environment Minister of Rhineland-Palatinate, Töpfer, or his colleague in Lower Saxony, Remmers, are also self-willed politicians able to reshape the party's image.

On the whole, however, very few new ideas have emerged during the years in which the CDU has been in government.

The party needs new stimuli. Parties in government always suffer from "wear and tear".

If they want to retain power they must do more than just administer the status quo.

The election result may remind the CDU that it must start breaking new ground.

Hermann Rudolph

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 4 February 1987)

Warning that the political left is facing crisis of identity

Peter Glotz, the SPD's business manager, is convinced that the German political left is going through a dangerous crisis of identity.

He believes technological progress is gradually thinning the ranks of former supporters.

He says: "Many sectors in which the labour movement was particularly powerful have fallen victim to structural change.

"At the same time there is a risk that those workers who benefit from rationalisation, the skilled workers, maintenance experts and engineers, will be attracted to the other side".

He was not speaking after the general election last month in which the SPD won just 37 per cent of the vote.

He was writing two years ago in an article entitled "New European Left". But his conclusions are just as valid today.

If the left fails to change its strategy soon, Glotz feels, "then it will only be able to assume the role of opposition during the next decades".

But if the Social Democrats interpret this election properly the "majority left of centre" referred to by Willy Brandt is a long way off.

The SPD and Greens obtained a total of 45 per cent of the vote. In their best election performance so far, in 1972, the Social Democrats achieved over 45 per cent on their own.

The left-wing bloc in the Federal Republic is stagnating, especially now that the Greens have established their position as a new party left of the SPD. The conservative bloc retains the ma- [illegible]

[illegible] this mean decades of a minor- [illegible] for the West German left? The SPD has never been able to govern on its own, neither in the Weimar Republic nor in the Federal Republic.

The dream of an absolute majority conjured up by Johannes Rau remains a dream.

The SPD still depends on coalition partners.

For the immediate future at least the Greens look like the only possible coalition partner.

It is precisely here that a dilemma begins for the left.

Ever since the Greens appeared on the scene the SPD has, politically speaking, been trying to "do the splits".

Hesse's Enivironment Minister, Joschka Fischer, derisively remarked: "Helmut Schmidt was our obstretician and Johannes Rau is our foster-father".

This is not far from the truth, since attempts by Schmidt and Rau to dissociate the SPD from the Greens only induced many previously loyal SPD voters to vote for the Greens.

This internal blood transfusion, however, need not repeat itself at every election, as the outcome of the general election shows.

This time the Greens had greater gains than the SPD losses.

If, on the other hand, the SPD moves towards or even collaborates with the Greens, an approach favoured by Saarland's premier Oskar Lafontaine and the SPD opposition leader in Schleswig-Holstein Björn Engholm, the party risks losing its more right-wing voters.

This would be a daring move indeed if the SPD (and the CDU) can no longer count on the traditional voters referred to by Peter Glotz.

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Whatever the SPD does it runs the risk of falling between all stools — and staying that way for some time to come.

To simply pass the "alliance question" on to the Greens, as practised by Norbert Gansel (SPD), or to try and present the Greens as incompetent, an approach favoured by the SPD's "heir apparent" Oskar Lafontaine, are both strategies which will only lead to a further debilitation of the SPD.

In view of the gains and stabilisation of the Greens they do not provide a solution to the problems at hand.

The risk the Greens face is just as great. To commit the party to a "strategy of exposure" (Otto Schily) vis-à-vis the SPD, i.e. to fundamentally refuse to collaborate with the SPD, would only scare off those voters who would like to see political changes translated into action with the help of the Greens.

The heading chosen by leftist author Thomas Schmid to describe the difficult development of the Greens towards a realistic policy of reform was *Zwischen oder auf den Tankern* (Between or on the tankers).

If the Greens opt for greater conformity and even collaboration they may lose votes on their "left-wing", radical and fundamentalist fringe.

Once again, however, this perspective need not apply at all time in the future, as shown by the election results in Hesse, the Land in which there was the first Red-Green alliance.

Is change via *rapprochement*, therefore, the only acceptable formula if Brandt's reference to a "new leftwing majority" is not to remain just a utopian dream?

One or perhaps even both of the two rival leftwing parties will have to change.

The SPD has already done a great deal of groundwork in this direction: in its "Employment and Environment" programme, its government policy programme in Nuremberg and the draft for a new basic policy programme.

With the exception of a few issues such as withdrawal from Nato and a renunciation of nuclear energy this contrasts with "the lack of programmatic clarity of the Greens, the juxtaposition of by and large mutually incompatible positions" (Schmid).

It remains to be seen whether this process of change will be more complicated or dangerous for the SPD or the Greens.

The "power question" will not be raised for the West German left in the immediate future.

This could only happen if the conservative camp were to suddenly find its forecasts of optimism in a shambles due to a rapid economic decline or other adverse developments.

The "prophets of the left" might then appear, Only then would sociologist Ralf Dahrendorf, who has already predicted the "end of the social-democratic century" for many years, be proved wrong.

Heinz Verfürth

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 2 February 1987)

■ GERMANY

New proposals for citizenship raise the issue of dual nationality

Berlin Senate has drawn up proposals to make it easier for foreigners to become Germans. The proposals have attracted a lot of controversy. Hellmut Sieglerschmidt, who wrote this article for the Berlin daily newspaper, *Der Tagesspiegel*, was for many years an SPD member of the Bonn Bundestag and, in the mid-1970s, vice-chairman of the legal committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. He is chairman of the German Europa-Union's aliens' affairs commission.

Many reports commissioned by the government for Parliament are either soon filed and forgotten or simply consigned to the waste paper basket.

This fate is unlikely to befall the Senate's report on means of making it easier to acquire German citizenship dated 16 December 1986.

The question tabled in the House of Representatives — the enquiry that led to the report being prepared — has more than a long history.

The problems it entails seem sure to remain the subject of heated political and legal debate both in Berlin and in countries everywhere that have been affected by worldwide migration trends that will probably grow in the decades ahead.

The Senate's plans are welcomed by some, Germans and foreigners, while others either reject them or feel they call for critical comments.

The Senate's proposals on making naturalisation easier, especially for second- and third-generation aliens, have met with strongest objections and misgivings in respect of the idea of making more exceptions to the rule of avoiding dual nationality.

Dual nationality is the subject of this article. To deal in detail with the other proposals would take far too long.

Before dealing in detail with dual or multiple nationality, however, it would seem advisable to comment on two aspects of the report.

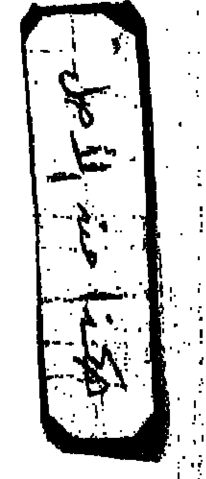
The Senate is right in stressing, in accordance with a 1984 statement by the Federal government, that no state can in the long run accept the idea of a significant proportion of the population remaining outside the full purview of the state and outside the scope of loyalty toward it for generations on end.

This possibility may well be viewed, as in an open letter published as an advertisement in this newspaper, as a disastrous development.

But those who hold this view have no right to lay claim, in the name of the group to which they belong, to the binding concept of democracy while so evidently regretting the demise of a "sense of identity" felt by the German people in the past.

The Senate would seem to be on less safe ground in claiming that legislative moves are not needed to achieve the political objective it envisages.

Views may clearly differ on whether the Bill submitted to the Bundesrat on 21 July 1986 by Bremen, Hamburg, North Rhine-Westphalia and the Saar was entirely satisfactory. It failed in any case to gain majority support and was rejected at the end of last year.



The Bill was aimed at legislative improvements to make it easier to acquire German citizenship. A mere amendment of administrative regulations is unlikely to be sufficiently far-reaching to have the required effect.

A legal right, whatever form it might take, is more effective than the enforcement of administrative regulations, it will surely be agreed in practice.

The authorities necessarily retain some degree of leeway in deciding how to interpret administrative guidelines.

Without going in for legal hairsplitting the man in the street will probably call to mind, in connection with dual nationality, the New Testament axiom that no man can serve two masters.

If the Federal government, as stated earlier, is prepared to allow foreign nationals to become German citizens because no state can afford to leave them outside the scope of loyalty obligations, then dual nationality must inevitably entail loyalty to both states.

There is nothing new about the problems to which this can give rise. They can include both twofold rights, such as dual franchise, and twofold duties, such as military service in both countries.

Nearly 25 years ago, on 6 May 1963, the Council of Europe drew up a convention limiting dual nationality and dealing with military service in the event of dual nationality. The Federal Republic signed the convention in 1969.

The wording of the convention makes two points clear, one being that multiple nationality must have been fairly frequent 25 years ago, the other that they were unable to abolish it and merely sought to limit its extent.

Yet despite their international legal undertaking they have failed even to reduce the number of cases in which dual nationality occurred. At least in the



Federal Republic the trend has been in the other direction.

In 1974 the legal provisions governing German citizenship had to be amended in keeping with sexual equality. German women no longer automatically forfeit German nationality when they marry a foreigner, although they often automatically acquire their husband's nationality too.

The same goes for children of mixed marriages. Since 1974 they have automatically been entitled to German citizenship even though they usually acquire that of their foreign father no less automatically.

In the clash between the basic right codified in Article 3 of Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, and the principle, agreed by international law, of avoiding dual nationality wherever possible, the basic right had to be assigned priority.

There are also the numerous instances, said by the Senate to number about 20 per cent, in which dual nationality is already accepted by the German authorities within the framework of the way to which they are entitled.

So dual or multiple nationality is already fairly widespread, yet — individual exceptions apart — widely forecast legal uncertainty as to diplomatic and consular protection of dual nationals and their obligations toward the different legal systems has failed to arise to any great extent.

The same is true of international legal disputes of a private nature in which the citizenship of the parties to the case is relevant or in dispute.

So the Senate can rightly point out that these consequences have failed to arise and cautiously call for more widespread exceptions to the principle of avoiding multiple nationality, especially as it has good reason for doing so.

On the basis of personal experience the writer, who is involved in aliens policy, can only agree.

In several countries where dual nationality regularly arises, and especially in Turkey, forfeiting one's original citizenship is felt to be a kind of treasonable offence against one's native country.

Yet even foreigners who have lived in the Federal Republic for many years would like to be able to return to their countries of origin as old-age pensioners, if not sooner, without being looked at askance.

A number of them have also bought property in their native countries, and it can be extremely difficult, again especially in Turkey, to use, sell or bequeath property in Turkey as a non-Turkish national.

Second- and third-generation aliens are also reluctant to forfeit their non-German nationality, especially if they are Turks, because of their strong family ties and even though they, like many of their parents and grandparents, would gladly become German citizens if they could do so without forfeiting Turkish citizenship.

The Senate does not, of course, claim that multiple nationality is totally unproblematic. Yet oddly enough there is a solution to the problem, known as the Spanish model, that has long formed part of discussion on the subject but isn't even mentioned in the Senate's report.

The Federal government's commissioner for aliens' affairs, Liselotte Funcke, is reported to favour the Spanish model as a solution to the problem.

In an article in the 11-12/85 issue of *Informationsbrief für Ausländerrecht* ex-Senator Hans Rau of Hamburg outlines the Spanish model.

His findings are here summarised.

Spain has concluded agreements on dual nationality with 11 Spanish American states and four other countries, including Portugal and the Philippines.

By the terms of these treaties a national of the one country automatically acquires the nationality of the other when he establishes his domicile there.

The acquired nationality is considered to be his or her effective nationality, while the original nationality is in abeyance until such time as he or she returns to the country of origin.

The dual national is not regarded as an alien in the country where his or her nationality lies in abeyance, certainly not where entry and residence permits are concerned.

But the basic rights and duties are those of what is regarded as the "effective" nationality.

This brief outline of dual nationality Spanish-style naturally fails to answer many details. There is no reason why it should, since no-one is proposing to adopt it lock, stock and barrel.

Yet it seems to me to be an interesting model, but naturally one that needs to be tailored to suit the requirements of the parties concerned.

This particularly applies to arrangements within the European Community and, of course, to any arrangements agreed between Germany and Turkey.

Potential parties to any such arrangement must also be keen on the idea. It could, however, well be in accordance with Turkish interests.

As for the existing Council of Europe convention, it need present no problems with regard to arrangements with Yugoslavia and Turkey, the countries mainly affected.

Fourteen Council of Europe member-countries have signed the convention but neither Yugoslavia nor Turkey has done so, and of the 14 only Italy, with a substantial Italian community in the Federal Republic, is relevant in the context here discussed.

If the Federal Republic were to decide in favour of progress toward a policy as here outlined it would be almost impossible to reconcile with the Council of Europe convention.

The convention's provisions have already been breached and circumvented in many ways, so the Federal government might do better to cancel its membership of the convention.

Hellmut Sieglerschmidt

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 3 February 1987)

Who is affected

Official figures on the number of West Berliners with dual nationality are not available. Statistics aren't kept.

The only exact figure that is available, says a spokesman for the home affairs department, is the annual number of naturalised citizens in whose cases the German authorities have been prepared to accept dual nationality.

In 1985 the number of people in this category was 605 in West Berlin. They included 286 Turks. A total of 1,201 foreign nationals were naturalised, not including stateless persons.

The German authorities are prepared to accept dual nationality in respect of a number of countries which take the view that their nationals cannot forfeit their nationality, not even by assuming the nationality of another state, in this case the Federal Republic of Germany.

Argentina, for instance, cites legal reasons why Argentine nationality is irrevocable. Greeks and Bulgarians, in contrast, are *de facto* unable to divest themselves of Greek or Bulgarian nationality; their governments won't let them.

Turkey only strips a Turkish national of citizenship once he can prove he has acquired that of another country.

The West Berlin authorities take care to ensure that Turkish nationals who become naturalised Germans apply to be stripped of Turkish citizenship, which is what happens in at least 80 per cent of cases.

The authorities estimate that between 20 and 25 per cent of naturalised Germans permanently retain dual nationality. Between 1945 and 1985 nearly 20,000 foreign nationals without legal entitlement took out naturalisation papers in Berlin.

■ PERSPECTIVE

Trade issue enters talks about military strategy



Almost a tenth of the US Senate attended this year's International Conference on Military Strategy held in Munich.

The conference ranks as the most important private meeting of the security policy establishment in the western alliance.

Among the government representatives, diplomats, military experts and parliamentarians from Nato member countries the US Senators were expected to provide some particularly useful insights into the current "standstill" period in the United States.

Experience shows that the members of the Senate, who regard themselves as Washington's most powerful political representatives, are less tight-lipped about new trends and strategic concepts than members of the executive.

As a rule the American conferees determine the priority of political topics discussed at the annual conference.

As representatives of the leading western power this is more or less taken for granted.

The Europeans, on the other hand, generally assume the role of backing, criticising or on some occasions opposing the views forwarded by the American guests.

This time, however, they were very much at a loss, since there was no clear priority aspect in the forward-looking conceptual strategy outlined by the Americans.

The Europeans at the Munich conference seemed to accept this as an unalterable fact.

Outside the conference, admittedly, where views were more frankly expressed, a whole series of problems emerged.

One of them was the reluctantly broached yet relevant concern of the Europeans about a withdrawal of US troops.

At a very inopportune moment, as Bonn Defence Minister Manfred Wörner warned, since such a withdrawal might even begin before the start of negotiations on the reduction of conventional forces between the Atlantic and the Urals.

Continued European concern is rooted in the disjointedly and unilaterally developed American concepts for nuclear disarmament and for the continuation of SDI.

A further cause for concern are hints by Washington that the refusal of the European Community to meet its demands for completely liberalised trade in farm products to and from the Community could have substantial repercussions on US security policy commitments in Europe.

In addition, there were the usual differences of opinion on how seriously Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov can be taken as a negotiating partner.

Whereas most Europeans give Gorbachov the benefit of any doubts they may have in this respect, a deep and uninhibited mistrust prevails in Washington, at least among the Republic hardliners, with respect to dealings with the man in the Kremlin.

This position was most clearly voiced in Munich by Richard Perle.

Perle is responsible for international security policy in the Pentagon, and some observers feel that he is more the political soul of defence policy than Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Unmistakably addressing the East bloc countries Perle talked of "lies", "dangerous nonsense" and "deceit".

These remarks not only revealed his feelings about Moscow, but also reflected Washington's growing dissatisfaction at the behaviour of its allies.

Perle claimed that they lack the courage to face facts and openly refer to breaches of promises or treaties by Gorbachov.

Instead, he maintained, they shroud themselves in diplomatic mumbling.

Perle dismissed agreement on a ban on chemical weapons, which currently seems within reach, as dangerous and meaningless.

Moscow's proposal for a freeze on nuclear tests fared no better.

Yet it is precisely these two agreements which are favoured by Europe, in particular by Bonn.

It will come as no surprise, therefore, if this triggers yet another conflict between America and Europe over disarmament policy.

In Perle's opinion, these arms control plans are no more than politically fashionable and merely benefit Soviet propaganda.

Fortunately, this adamant devaluation of arms control policies does not tally with the official stance of the White House, even though Perle's influence should not be underrated.

During the conference in Munich, however, opposition to Perle's remarks was weak.

Delegates were more attentive when he elucidated his views on nuclear deterrence.

A renunciation of nuclear weapons and their replacement by a system of conventional arms, said Perle, is "absurd".

This statement was assured general approval.

Even his somewhat disrespectful comments on the escalation of demands to eliminate nuclear weapons, of the kind forwarded by Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachov at the Reykjavik summit, were not unpopular at the conference.

The permanence of the negotiating intentions expressed in Reykjavik can be regarded as one of the certainties in the USA's position.

America hopes that the planned step-by-step reduction of ballistic missiles will have a positive impact.

Due to the extremely brief early warning period these missiles can inflict a devastating first strike against the enemy.

This would be impossible in the case of the cruise missiles, which fly much more slowly.

All members of the Nato alliance agreed that the reduction of ballistic missiles would stabilise the strategic situation.

A space-based antimissile defence system, i.e. the SDI project, said Perle, would to a certain extent represent an insurance against breach of treaty or attacks by third countries.

Antimissile defence efforts, so it seemed in Munich, are currently being pursued with the aim of deploying individual components of the system depending on the degree of their completion.

If the differing views expressed by the Americans attending the conference are taken as a yardstick, what will happen in the post-Reagan era is a matter of pure conjecture.

Europeans are still in a state of confusion following the Reykjavik summit.

This is not only true of the Germans, who agree in principle on this issue with Britain and the Netherlands.

This could at least be inferred from the concurring remarks made by Bonn Defence Minister Manfred Wörner and his British and Dutch colleagues Younger and van Eekelen.

The French remain silent on such occasions.

As an autonomous nuclear power they reject any participation in disarmament.

They confine themselves to critical commentaries when America refers to its intention to withdraw troops from Europe or when Bonn tries to persuade Paris to adopt a clearer foreign policy course.

In the field of conventional disarmament Wörner called upon the Soviet Union to implement asymmetrical troop reduction.

If the Russians do not do more than the West to reduce their troops, Wörner emphasised, the Soviets would always retain superior invading power.

This approach, however, which presupposes a sensational willingness to act on the part of the Soviet Union, was mainly discussed between Germans at the conference.

The debate over a prophylactic search for alternative and emergency solutions in the event of a massive American withdrawal of troops, as recommended to a Congress committee by former security adviser Brzezinski, primarily turned into a German-American dialogue.

This also applied to a large extent to the connection described by US ambassador in Bonn, Richard Burt, between European agricultural protectionism and the resultant hostilities in the United States, which could even escalate into considerations on a thinning out of troops.

The discussion inevitably got round to the question of a zero option for medium-range missiles in Europe.

Bonn, itself the initiator of the zero option, cut a pretty poor figure in the discussion.

Wörner reiterated that, for reasons of maintaining a nuclear deterrence, the zero option should be viewed critically.

Dismantling the Pershing 2s might involve the risk of decoupling America from Europe.

Criticism, he added, primarily relates to the problem area of short-range missiles, which were not dealt with.

Nevertheless, Wörner unreservedly supported the envisaged agreement on medium-range missiles.

He placed his trust in the sense of commitment of both superpowers to discuss the problem of short-range missiles, where the West has virtually nothing to offer, after an agreement has been reached on medium-range missiles.

Franz Josef Strauss did not support Wörner on this point.

Strauss would like to retain one hun-

Continued on page 8

■ FINANCE

Vagaries of the dollar: time to think about changing the system

Seven years ago the dollar was worth DM1.71. Two years ago its exchange rate was DM3.47. It has since declined to DM1.80.

Clear the ring for the next fight. In spring or summer the dollar can be expected to reach a markedly higher exchange rate.

Two years ago there was virtually nothing you couldn't buy at lower cost in Europe or Japan than in America. At the prevailing exchange rate even European jumbo airliners were competitive.

America has since resumed its role as a shopping paradise. German steel, motor, chemical and engineering companies' handsome profit margins on US exports have gone by the board. The Airbus is in trouble despite the billions European governments have contributed in subsidies.

European and Japanese firms opened up the US market by investing heavily when the dollar exchange rate was high. They are now stomaching losses in the hope that the rate might recover.

American firms transferred part of their manufacturing capacity to South America and the Far East. They are keeping it there even if it may not be running at a profit at present exchange rates.

By the same token many US products would be competitive in world markets at present, but manufacturers are reluctant to risk the cost of opening up markets given experience of exchange-rate fluctuation.

So it is hardly surprising that the US current account deficit has so far hardly responded to the dollar's decline.

But respond it will. There are many price-sensitive products in the range of US import and export goods. Europeans will not be able to continue selling at a loss in the United States in the long term.

If American firms are reluctant to risk the expense of building up export markets, that will not stop German mail order and department store buyers from going on a spending spree in the United States.

A turning-point in America's current account deficit is bound to come sooner or later.

US capital requirements clash with foreign trade too, of course. A country's net capital imports correspond exactly to its current account deficit, and America is a capital guzzler.

The US Federal budget deficit alone consumes roughly one tenth of world savings. There are also the capital requirements of US industry and housing.

American consumers are on a consumer spree. Their average debts are one fifth, their average savings only about three per cent of annual earnings.

America will continue to need a high current account deficit for as long as capital requirements are so much higher than savings.

So tension will arise between the current account balance on the basis of prevailing exchange rates and the capital requirements of the United States.

This tension may be resolved by changes in data. The US budget deficit would need to be reduced, private households to save more, industry to invest less.

That is a recession scenario inasmuch as both private consumer demand and demand on the part of industry and the public sector would decline.

Another possibility is that interest rates will rise due to the discrepancy between capital supply and demand. That in turn would push the dollar exchange rate upward.

If domestic prices increas at the same time, the current account deficit and the influx of foreign capital would remain unchanged.

The combination of data changes that occurs will depend first and foremost on US monetary and budget policy. The conceivable case of a further decline in the dollar exchange rate can almost only be envisaged in combination with a serious recession.

That can probably be averted in view of the strength of US domestic demand. So dollar investments are a fair bet at the present interest, exchange and swap rates.

This assessment is admittedly based on the assumption that the dollar, in terms of its international purchasing power, is currently undervalued.

Monetary forecasts are never more than opinions on what is probable. In a world of fluctuating exchange rates nothing in reality can be accurately forecast.

If exchange rates come about that are not in keeping with a currency's purchasing power either the exchange rate can adjust to the price level or the price level to the exchange rate.

The system is underdetermined, as the experts say. In simpler terms, exchange rates are a plaything of expectations and speculation. They have no firm basis in reality.

It is high time to consider a less absurd monetary order. As matters stand, first debtors who have taken out dollar loans, then creditors who have invested in dollars are taken to the cleaner's. The international debt crisis is mainly a result of the dollar's vagaries.

Foreign investment that at present seems profitable can in a few months' time, given different exchange rates, prove a flop.

Reliable investment calculations and commercial costing have become impossible. The allocation of international resources has become a game of chance

Banks of issue and governments have set up a magnificent fire brigade for use in an emergency but they are also lighting the fires the fire brigade is sent out to tackle.

Wolfram Engels

(Wirtschaftswoche, Düsseldorf, 30 January 1987)

1987 prognosis too rosy, says institute

The Ifo economic research institute, Munich, doubts whether optimistic forecasts for 1987 will come true. It even sees an international economic recession as a possibility next year.

The Munich economists say forecasts by international organisations have failed to pay sufficient heed to a number of foreign trade risks such as financing the US current account deficit, the weakness of the US dollar and the debt problems faced by the developing countries.

Ifo is convinced there will be no repetition this year of the favourable circumstances that were a hallmark of 1986.

The threat of recession might conceivably be averted by international cooperation, but signs of cooperation are extremely tentative, the Munich economists write.

Endeavours to bring about a more stable system of international exchange rates have for the most part been mere "verbal exercise." Trade war between the United States and the European Community remains a distinct possibility.

The so-called Baker initiative has met with little response in its bid to cope faster with the debt crisis. Besides, current growth rates in the industrialised countries are not high enough to help solve debtor countries' problems.

For 1987 the Ifo institute expects real GDP growth in the industrialised countries to average two per cent this year, as against 2.5 per cent in 1986. Western Europe is also expected to average two per cent, as against 2.3 per cent last year.

The OECD, the European Community and the IMF forecast growth rates of between 2.5 and three per cent in the industrialised countries and an increase in world trade of between 3.5 and four per cent.

The main reason for their positive assessment of the outlook is the expectation that the economic impetus already lent to private consumption and capital investment by the oil price decline will continue, as will gains in purchasing power that constitute record low inflation rates.

If economists feel domestic demand, as the "sole support" of higher output in most countries, will grow weaker. The effect of lower oil prices is on the decline and prices can be expected to increase again.

Besides, the negative effect on commodity-exporting countries (and on the demand for industrial goods they generate) of crude oil prices being halved since 1985 is said to have been underrated.

The labour market situation in Western industrial countries is unlikely to improve this year, given the poor growth rate.

In Japan, with an export-orientated economy particularly hard hit by the dollar's decline and the yen's gains, unemployment will even increase, the Munich economists say.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 2 February 1987)

■ FINANCE

One man and his summit high in the Swiss alps



Klaus Schwab runs an unparalleled network of close ties with top politicians and leaders of industry from a villa in Cologni, a country suburb of Geneva, headquarters of World Economic Forum.

From this office he organises the famous annual Davos Symposium, the 17th of which began at the end of January. It has almost won for itself the status of an international economic summit.

The 1,000 participants include 700 from industry, 136 from West Germany alone. This year 90, ministers from 54 industrialised and developing countries are attending, and, just to quote one figure, the presidents of eight of the ten largest computer firms in the world.

The spartan room where Schwab receives his prominent guests looks rather like a room for a secretary or a specialist than the room for the boss of a worldwide contact and information system.

There is a bright bunch of flowers on the inconspicuous desk at which Schwab himself serves his guests coffee.

The desk, from which there is a view of snow-desked woods, does not look as if there has been any hard work done there — there are neither files nor newspapers and magazines on it. Schwab is a master of organisation and delegation of responsibility.

This sober but friendly atmosphere reflects Schwab's nature. In his search for ideals and vision he has had to unite a strong discipline in thought and business with a considerable sense for reality, for the possible and profitable.

He is a man who knows how to calculate. He is not influenced by superficialities. His careful, quiet, sometimes sonorous voice, with frequent pauses for thought, is made more expressive by hand movements. His voice, for all its calmness, indicates a sense of involvement. He said: "I see my strength as being able to concentrate on the essentials."

Schwab, 49, was born in Ravensburg, 20 kilometres north of Lake Constance. His father was director of a German firm in Switzerland. His mother comes from Zürich.

He graduated in economics and mechanical engineering in Zürich and Fribourg. A grant from Rotary enabled him to study economics at the Kennedy School of Harvard University, where he obtained a master's degree in public administration.

From 1967 Schwab worked in a Zürich industrial company, but in 1969 he returned to "theory," and lectured at a Geneva management institute.

After reading *The American Challenge* by Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, published in 1968, Schwab had the idea of bringing mainly small to medium-sized companies face to face with modern, American management techniques.

The newly-built Davos congress centre in the seclusion of the Alps seemed ideal for this purpose. Local officials, who until then had only hosted a medical conference, were delighted to have businessmen visiting Davos.

Imaginative Schwab successfully got the European Community and even Prince Bernard of the Netherlands to act as patrons of his project.

All he lacked was money. And no-one was prepred to sink money into a financial adventure in Davos. The costs of the proposed conference would have been almost two million Swiss francs.

"I asked a whole series of people for advice and support. People tried to dissuade me. It is easy to kid yourself that you can get 400 leaders of commerce and industry to come to a Symposium for two weeks in far-away Davos," he recalls now.

He continued: "Then I found a company in southern Germany that was prepared to lend me DM50,000 on condition that I joined the firm and that I would work off the debt if everything went wrong. So I began."

At the beginning the team was made up of two, Schwab and a secretary, and later Frau Hilde, a Swiss woman well experienced in European affairs.

There was enough money to prepare the first 2,000 invitations. Then the project was dependent on acceptances and participants paying in advance.

He said: "If I had had bad luck and had to call off the Symposium because there were too few ready to attend, then I would have been in the red to the tune of 100,000 francs.

"But all went well. The acceptances arrived and with them the much needed cash-flow to pay for translators, experts, assistants and so on."

The first Symposium was opened at the end of 1971 when Schwab was 33. There were 444 participants and more were expected. Friends and relations had to take on jobs to ensure that all went well.

The atmosphere was good. Schwab's Symposium was a complete success. "I did not intend to make Davos into an institution. But before the first Symposium was over many of those who took part were saying that they must meet again in Davos the following year," Schwab commented.

He then shouldered the risk personally. With the surplus from the first he could pay off his debts and was able to set up the foundation for the European Management Forum in Geneva.

The International Economics Forum stemmed from that. Schwab had found a market opening and he grabbed it.

Then the number of people attending the third Symposium in 1973 shrank to 280. There were appreciable losses and Schwab had to take out a bridging loan. The interest in management methods seemed to have died away.

"Then we had some luck; the oil crises and the tumult in finance markets. Until then company managers, generally speaking, had not bothered themselves much about the outside world. This was changed abruptly. People now needed signposts, help to get themselves oriented. We quickly adjusted the Symposium to the new situation," he said.

The Arabs came to Davos. Things were looking up.

But in 1978 Schwab seemed to be battling with a crisis once more. "We were out of the pioneer years. But I noticed that there was not the interest there used to be among some participants, because our innovative efforts had declined. Some of my closest colleagues seemed to have gone into mental retirement.

"On the spot I decided to get together a new, dynamic team. That gave us a new vitality, that has been maintained until today," he said.

He choses his colleagues according to strict criteria. He expects people to have a sense of responsibility and initiative.

"If someone applied for a job with me I would go to the airport with him to see how he conducted himself on the escalator. If he just stood still and let himself be carried upwards then he was certainly not the man for me. I prefer people who *are not afraid of climbing up steps,"* said Schwab.

In the meantime the activities of the Geneva-based World Economic Forum now included many national round-table discussions with senior politicians, conferences for special sections of trade and industry and regular ministrial meetings in Geneva.

Almost 600 companies, most of them of international importance, and government bodies support the Forum as associate foundation members or regular participants in events.

Since 1982 the Davos Symposium has included three-day informal talks between about 50 active politicians from 20 countries and the heads of international organisations. Frau Schwab discreetly makes the preparations for these meetings.

There is international interest in the Forum's annual report on the competitivity of the industrialised countries. This includes extensive analyses and interviews with leaders of trade and industry.

Schwab commented: "We are currently going through a growth explosion and have many ideas." These include a monthly magazine, *World Link*, that is addressed to 33,333 selected decision-makers and should promote international dialogue between leaders in industry and politics.

Schwab wants to start up an international economic Academy that would deal with solving the more acute problems of individual sections of industry.

Schwab travels for the greater part of the year — as many as 150 days — to nurture his worldwide contacts.

In addition he is committed to lecturing on management policies at Geneva University and is active on the Economic Affairs Commission of the Geneva Canton.



Vision plus reality . . . Klaus Schwab.
(Photo: Andy Meuler)

He is also on the supervisory board of Nixdorf Computer and Fontobel Holding, the largest private bank in Switzerland.

Does he have time for his family? Certainly because everything is well planned.

"I get up at 6.15. I spend my time until seven o'clock keeping fit, gymnastics, jogging or cycling. I swim one kilometre every week," he said.

"From 7.15 to 7.45 the family breakfasts together. At 8.15 I'm in the office. I eat lunch out most of the time. I try to be back home at 18.30 for supper with the family] At 19.30 I make myself comfortable and study my papers, read newspapers and weeklies. At 22.00 hours I chat with my wife, my closest adviser, about events. At eleven o'clock I go to bed."

He reserves the weekend, when possible, for his wife and their two children.

"People often ask me why I have retained my German nationality when so many of my countrymen, who live here, have taken Swiss nationality. Without question it would have given me a few advantages," he said.

"The reason is that I don't think in national terms. It would be an affront to my European nature to exchange my German passport for a Swiss one."

Schwab is gratified that he has been able to establish confidential relationships with leaders all over the world. He is gratified that these people, be they in America, the Middle East or China, regard him as a competent authority and that in Davos, in intimate circles, they can have "fair talks" even with their political opponents.

If you are successful you have critics and people who are jealous of your success. Schwab said laconically: "You have to live with that."

There have been complaints from some small and medium-sized sectors of the economy. These companies, for whom the symposium was originally devised, feel themselves pushed aside by the presence of major concerns.

Schwab pointed out that at Davos personalities were what counted not the size of the companies from which the people came.

Others complain that Davos, with all its VIPs, has become a kind of "circus" without much value as a centre for exchanging ideas.

Schwab believes that any businessman who comes to the symposium and takes part in all the working groups actively can gather a wealth of information and make plenty of contacts.

In the last few years Davos has initiated and arranged thousands of talks.

Schwab's business sense is indisputable. It has exceeded all expectations.

Alfred Zänker

(Die Welt, Bonn, 30 January 1987)

Who was there

The list of participants at the Davos Economics forum reads like an extract from *Who's Who*. A selection: industrialists: Carl Hahn (Volkswagen), Karl-Heinz Kaske (Siemens), Ernst Pieper (Salzgitter AG), Werner Dieter (Mannesmann), C.J. van der Klugt (Philips), Helmut Maucher (Nestlé), Kiyoshi Matsumoto (Toyota), Thomas Watson (IBM) and Pehr Gyllenhammer (Volvo). Economists: John Kenneth Galbraith, Friedrich von Hayek.

Politicians: Helmut Kohl, Hans Dietrich Genscher, Franz Josef Strauss, Count Otto Lambsdorff, Helmut Schmidt and Petra Kelly (West Germany); Francois Mitterrand, Raimond Barre and Edouard Baladur (France); Henry Kissinger, Malcolm Baldridge and John Herrington (America); Edward Heath (Britain); Bob Hawke (Australia); Andreas Papandreou (Greece); Turgut Ozal (Turkey); and Jacques Delors and Willy de Clerq (the European Community).

The president of the Soviet Foreign Trade Commission, I. Ivanov, came from Moscow. He is the man behind Gorbachov's trade reforms.

Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the Bundesbank, the German central bank, and Hans Tietmeyer, state secretary at the Bonn Finance Ministry, were present part of the time.

■ BUSINESS

Attempt to save the cuckoo clock from extinction

A 63-year-old Düsseldorf adman who retired to Schonach in the Black Forest five years ago has ambitious plans to save the area's traditional cuckoo clock from extinction.

He had hoped on retirement to find more time for hiking, painting and eating out — hobbies Peter-Paul Masberg felt he had neglected for most of his working life.

But retirement has yet to be as restful as he planned. He has only himself to blame, of course. He soon discovered that even in retirement he was not the type to snooze in an easy chair.

Advertising used to be his job. It is now his hobby. But promoting the local tourist attractions is not enough.

His latest project should certainly keep him busy. Its articles of association



Time for a change... Peter-Paul Masberg and cuckoo clock.

(Photo: Andreas Müller)

aim at boosting and consolidating the reputation of the Black Forest cuckoo clock.

There is more to it than a joke. Masberg, whose hobbies include collecting timepieces, has long realised that the cuckoo clock's days are numbered — or will be unless remedial action is taken.

The dollar is to blame, it seems. At its present exchange rate Black Forest cuckoo clocks have been priced out of the US market.

Black Forest clock-makers have been hit hard. An estimated 90 per cent of the half a million cuckoo clocks a year that were assembled in the Black Forest were exported to America.

The remainder were sold locally as souvenirs, and even they are no longer selling well. Dealers say US tourists are a declining band, with less cash to spend and worried by the prospect of terrorism in Europe.

German holidaymakers or day-trippers have never bought cuckoo clocks in large numbers at the souvenir shops in Triberg and Schonach.

Masberg feels he knows the reason for the slump. "The cuckoo clock's image has been completely ruined," he says. "It has been degraded to the status of a cheap souvenir."

Clock-makers are not entirely blameless. "They have completely forgotten any idea of selling clocks in Germany," he explains.

The cuckoo clock was devised in 1730 by Franz Ketterer, a local inventor. Did clock-makers publicise its 250th anniversary? Not they. The Black Forest forgot all about it.

Market research, he says, shows how badly marketing has been neglected. Until only a few years ago the cuckoo clock was invariably the object first associated with the Black Forest; it now only ranks third.

Its place has been taken by the TV soap opera Black Forest Clinic and by the wholesale death of trees caused by acid rain.

Masberg discovered the latest warning sign in this year's mail order catalogues. The largest German mail order firm no longer includes cuckoo clocks in its catalogue.

That, he says, is the beginning of the end. Yet he had initial difficulty in finding support for his campaign to save the Black Forest cuckoo clock.

The main problem was that he, as a cheerful, talkative Rhinelander, was not taken seriously by the dour, distrustful locals, especially when he began to concern himself with their affairs.

"You have to be able to talk the hind legs off a donkey to persuade people here," he says. But patience brought its reward.

When he held his inaugural meeting in a Triberg hotel he spoke to a full house even though the event had only been given a bare three lines by the local paper.

Even he was surprised that so many people turned up, but that only proved his point, that the industry is in poor shape.

"The outlook really doesn't look at all good," one manufacturer admitted, while another warned that a traditional craft might one day die entirely.

That would indeed be a sad blow for the region, especially for Schonach, population 5,000, where cuckoo clocks are a mainstay of the economy.

Clock-makers saw, carve and file away at parts in nearly every other house in town. It is hard to say how many depend on sales of Black Forest souvenirs for their living, but most parts are still locally made — and made by hand.

Only the mechanism is manufactured industrially — at two small factories. So the slump in US exports came like a bolt out of the blue — and a most unwelcome one.

"People have earned a good living for years," Masberg says, "and put not a



Home is where the clock is.

(Photo: Dietmar Kaiser)

penny aside, fondly believing the future would look after itself." So the campaign to step up sales of cuckoo clocks in the Federal Republic must not be too costly. People simply don't have the money. But cash, Masberg says, isn't always what counts.

"Minor details that can easily be dealt with are often the problem," he says. He has often been infuriated by instruction leaflets in languages as remote as Korean — and not a word of advice in German.

German cuckoo clock buyers have been known to fail in the attempt to hang their clocks on the wall for lack of instructions in a language they could read.

Another problem was that the cuckoo could seldom be muted. "When the bird cuckoos away all night you can be sure the clock will be consigned to the attic before long," he says.

Masberg is keen to draw a clear distinction between kitsch and art. A seal of quality is planned as an accolade for hand-made, quality clocks — to distinguish them from cheap, mass-produced goods.

The seal of quality will only be awarded to clocks that meet a list of requirements. Cuckoos will need to be hand-carved and made of wood for one; plastic birds are out.

Even so, "it will be a while before cuckoo clocks are back in their rightful place in German living rooms," says adman Masberg.

His own home is exemplary. He has five expensive cuckoo clocks in his bedroom alone. "If only one of them stops," he says, "I wake up immediately."

Andreas Müller

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 28 January 1987)

When chiming gets into the big time

DIE WELT

The world's largest cuckoo clock is, fittingly, in the Black Forest: between Triberg and Schonach on Route 109.

It shows the time on a jumbo clock-face and a cuckoo appears on the hour and at the half-hour to tell the time with its mechanical birdsong.

The clock consists of a typical slate-tiled Black Forest chalet with a low, sloping roof and a surface area of six by seven metres (20 by 23ft). The building is 6.50 metres tall.

Visitors can walk inside and see for themselves the gigantic mechanism 50 times the conventional size of a Black Forest cuckoo clock.

The mechanism is 3.00 by 3.60 metres in size, one metre from front to back and incorporates 14 special plywood cogs, the largest of which is 1.85m (six feet) in diameter.

It is not run by a spring. Like standard cuckoo clocks it relies on weights. They weigh 85kg, or 187lb.

The clock shows Central European Time in winter and summer time from March to October. The wooden clock-face is in fretwork.

The clockface is 1.65 metres in diameter. The hands are matt plastic and 90 and 80 centimetres long respectively.

The cuckoo is 80cm, or 2ft 8in, tall (not bad for a cuckoo, is it?) and emerges from its compartment to sound the hour and half-hour.

The pipes that sound the "cuckoo" call are 1.55 metres long. The clock pendulum is 2.70 metres long.

The clock was built by Josef Dold and family. Dold, like his father before him, is a cuckoo clock-maker. His father toured the countryside peddling them.

The king-sized cuckoo clock took two years to build. The building also houses a showroom and sales counter for the family's hand-made clocks.

Souvenirs also include dolls in Black Forest costume and minor objets d'art featuring Black Forest landscapes. The shop — and clock — are open daily.

Wolfgang Altendorf

(Die Welt, Bonn, 4 February 1987)

Continued from page 5

dred medium-range missiles and link negotiations for a solution to the medium- and short-range missiles problems.

No-one at the conference, however, took up his suggestion.

Wörner and Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher have committed themselves to a common stance in this field.

Following the irritations of Reykjavik the tolerance threshold for security plans in Europe has been appreciably raised.

The main beneficiary of this development during this year's conference was Egon Bahr.

His concept of a 300-kilometre-wide corridor along the East-West border, free from nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and, a more recent suggestion, from artillery and tanks too, met with a more tolerant response than in previous years.

However, the considerable criticism levelled by the chairman of the Nato military committee, General Altenburg, against Bahr's proposal from a military point of view was attentively and sympathetically welcomed.

This year's conference in Munich mainly provided a series of snapshots.

It showed the dangers looming on the horizon for the cohesion of the alliance. This was nothing new.

There were, however, signs of consensus over the basic desire to retain nuclear deterrence.

The priority of disarmament policy was also emphasised, even though the Geneva negotiators who came along to the conference (including Paul Nitze) had nothing more precise to say on this aspect.

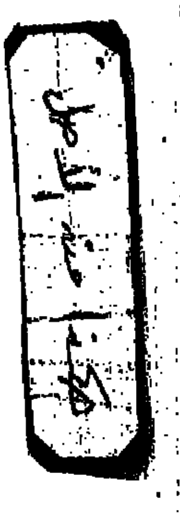
America's lack of form was apparent.

Yet the Europeans seemed unable to fill the gap this left.

They proved just as unable to provide the stimuli the alliance, Europe and America needs.

Kurt Becker

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 6 February 1987)





■ TRANSPORT

High-speed hovertrain looks to the American market

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

The Transrapid hovertrain will soon be put through its paces at speeds of 400kph (250mph). By mid-1987 a second section of the experimental track will be in operation in the Emsland region of Lower Saxony, not far from the Dutch border.

Including the southern loop, which is still under construction, the hovertrain will then be run on a monorail track 31.5km, or nearly 21 miles, long.

On the existing track it set up a world record speed of 355kph, or over 230mph. It wasn't a special run; this speed could be repeated whenever required.

The test train, the Transrapid 06, had carried out 990 trial runs by mid-October last year, logging a total 22,000km, or nearly 15,000 miles.

Specialists in magneto-hydrodynamic rail travel, as the German hovertrain technique is known, said at a Hanover seminar held by the Federal Research and Technology Ministry, which heavily subsidises the project, that trials indicated speeds of 400kph and more would be no problem.

According to deadlines agreed by industrial firms associated with the project and the operator of the trial section of hovertrack the system should be ready for commercial operation by 1989.

The prototype train should be available and ready for use from next year.

Hovertrain services are said to stand a fair chance of being introduced in various cities soon, especially in the United States, according to Transrapid planning experts.

German technology is expected to open up new markets in the United States, where 250mph Transrapid services could link Los Angeles and Las Vegas by 1995.

Hovertrain services between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are another promising possibility. It was difficult terrain but ideal for the hovertrain, the Hanover seminar was told.

The outlook for a European hovertrain link between Paris and Cologne via Brussels and Amsterdam was said to be less promising, although Paris to Cologne in 98 minutes was much faster than either the German Intercity Express or the French TGV.

The specifications laid down by the French, Belgian, Dutch and German Transport Ministers had not been in keeping with the hovertrain's specific advantages.

The service was, for instance, to serve existing stations, which would substantially increase projected capital investment and running costs.

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 1 February 1987)

High, wide and handsome — and fast. The Transrapid shows it paces.

(Photo: Archives)

Motorists getting faster and worse, accuses judge

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

A retired judge says Germany should set a speed limit on the autobahns and toughen the drink-driving laws.

Richard Spiegel told a conference that German motorists seemed to have "a neurotic relationship to speed." The evidence showed they were driving faster and worse.

He told the annual traffic court conference in Goslar that he was sure an autobahn limit would be introduced "even if it is the last country in Europe to do so."

He said a 100kph limit might not be practicable, but 120kph or 130kph might be instead of the present freedom to travel as fast as the driver wanted.

A lower blood-alcohol limit was the only way to fight drunken driving. At the current limit of 80 millilitres, only short losses of licence were imposed. In most other countries much longer bans were imposed at this level.

Judge Spiegel gave the opening address to over 1,200 German and foreign lawyers specialising in traffic offences at the 25th Goslar conference.

Analysis of last year's accident statistics showed, he said, that road discipline was declining rapidly. What other explanation could there be for accident figures having registered a significant increase in Germany alone during European Road Safety Year?

Last year the number of road deaths was up to nearly 9,000 after the unusually low 1985 figure of about 8,400.

Judge Spiegel says safety devices such as belts, four-wheel drive and anti-locking devices are tempting more and more motorists to run greater risks.

At the same time discipline had slackened alarmingly with motorists increasingly, deliberately disregarding recommended or mandatory speeds and driving under the influence of drink.

Driving too fast was still the most frequent cause of accident. The "neurotic" love of speed on the roads was deliberately taken advantage of by motor industry advertising.

Fresh speed limits more strictly enforced were the only solution. A 100kph autobahn speed limit might not be feasible but alternatives, such as 120 or 130kph, might well prove more effective.

In urban traffic, which was particularly accident-prone, intensive speed checks that were seen to be carried out might be enough to ensure that a majority of motorists kept to the 50kph limit.

Lower speeds were agreed by accident research workers, Judge Spiegel said, to represent an invariable gain in road safety.

Lower limits, he added, were the only way to fight drunken driving. The Federal Republic could not continue to be the only country in Europe where a long-term driving ban was not imposed unless the blood alcohol count was at least 130 millilitres.

Temporary bans were imposed at 80 millilitres, but in nearly all other countries strict bans were imposed at this alcohol level.

Motorists were still far more afraid of a driving ban than of a fine or even a prison sentence.

He told the Bonn government it was wrong to rely solely on road safety measures. Stricter regulations more effectively enforced were the only way to achieve road safety.

Stricter enforcement could also be reconciled with democracy when it meant protection people from injury or even death.

Ingmar Keller

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 30 January 1987)

Floating car parks planned for city centre

Floating multi-storey car parks are proposed by a Regensburg firm to meet city-centre demand for parking.

The firm wants to use disused urban waterways for parking right where it is needed and more cheaply than conventional parking.

The firm, Inter Parking KG, is convinced time is on its side, with 23 million German cars needing a statistical minimum 12 square metres of parking space.

The more cars registered, the more parking space needed. New roads may be built, but city-centre parking or car parks convenient for city centres are growing steadily scarcer. New roads are fine, says a company spokesman, but cars are parked for longer than they are driven. Parking lots in a multi-storey car park cost DM25,000 each on average; lots in an underground car park cost DM40,000 each. Space on the parking deck of a specially designed vessel is said to cost only DM15,000 per vehicle.

Custom-built ships could provide up to 220 parking lots per vessel in next to no time in city-centre locations without an agonising search for building land and planning permission.

Floating car parks could be shifted to another location without difficulty should the need arise. The operator could afford to pay for ships to be built in return for grossing parking fees in full.

Town planners and custodians of historic monuments have their doubts. In Mainz, for instance, they are worried that ships up to 120 metres (394ft) long could be an eyesore on the skyline.

The Regensburg firm says ships could be planned to fit into their proposed surroundings and even, like excursion steamers, incorporate a café or restaurant deck.

dpa

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 29 January 1987)

Artist's idea of what Regensburg's car parks might look like.

(Photo: dpa)

■ MUSIC

Separating Mozart the man from Mozart the myth

Allgemeine Zeitung

The wave of interest in "Amadeus" has not only created new clichés about Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. It has unintentionally made certain that legends about him are perpetuated.

Like sentimental, popular or plain hair-raising legends, they resist attempts to get at the truth. More, they even spark fresh speculation.

In 1977, Wolfgang Hildesheimer knocked Mozart from his pedestal and poured scorn on his wife who for 17 years did not visit her husband's grave — she had said she could not find it.

Poor Mozart was buried in a pauper's grave. The Viennese treated him so badly that he had to beg from friends who had money. How much better Prague had treated him.

Did anyone poison Mozart? The composer himself hinted that someone had. "Undoubtedly someone has given me poison. I cant rid myself of this idea."

And did not his great competitor Salieri himself confess, even through he was beginning to go mad?

Mozart's widow, Constanze was "happy-go-lucky, banal, crazy for pleasure," even "small-minded, vain, avaricious and primitive."

So, it is not surprising that Mozart's father rejected her vigorously and would not look after his grandchildren when his son planned a trip to London.

Did Constanze realise that she was married to a genius?

So far literature has regarded her as insignificant, unworthy of her husband. Two-hundred and thirty years after Mozart's birth and 195 years after his death writers strive still to throw light on the secrets of Mozart's life and death and the role Constanze played. They try to unravel ideas that contradict facts and statements. Hildesheimer, Peter Shaffer and the rest.

Englishman Francis Carr wrote a book, *Mozart and Constanze*, which appeared in English in 1983 and in German in 1986 in which a new murder-by-poisoning theory was presented. A news magazine wrote without thinking, "undoubtedly an exciting contribution to recent Mozart research."

In this book only well-known documents and letters were re-interpreted with Constanze coming off badly.

A German author, until 1985 an editor-in-chief and a musicologist, followed with a detailed analysis of this Constanze, a "cool and calculating woman almost dishonest." She was a bad mother and was only interested in milking the Mozart inheritance for as much as she could get.

The controversial example here is the question of the *Requiem* torso. The book by Heinz Gärtner is called, in fact, *Mozarts Requiem und die Geschäfte der Constanze M.* (Published by Verlag Langen Müller.)

As if by agreement there followed close on the heels of these two provocative books a reply, a strict analytical examination of Mozart's Vienna. Volkmar Braunbehrens' book, the third, *Mozart in Wien*, (published by Piper Verlag) succeeds not only in being unintentionally a decisive reply to the others, but independent from his far less serious predecessors a depiction that was factually and historically oriented, putting the Hildesheimer research into new aspects of Mozart into the shade.

Braunbehrens, a literature, music and art historian, was born in 1940. He lives in Freiburg. His new information about the ten years Mozart spent in Vienna is far more exciting than the superficial speculations of the two other authors, Carr and Gärtner.

At last Constanze is almost honourably re-instated, in a way that seems to be more credible than the defamation of her presented in the books by the other two.

Carr defends Constanze's staying away from her husband's burial, because this was not unusual. He wrote: "Widows and other female relations often remained at home. But her behaviour after Mozart's death was consistently shameful."

Was there a cover-up, were efforts made to prevent a post-mortem?

Carr suggests that Constanze must have wanted to avoid a scandal. A day after Mozart's death there was a little-noted occurance that Carr maintains had a direct bearing on Mozart's end.

The event was first mentioned by Mozart biographer Otto Jahn in 1856, but without coming to the conclusions that Carr has made.

Mozart . . . pauper or prince?
(Photo: Historia)

Magdalena and Franz Hofdemel — he was a court official and in the same free mason's lodge as Mozart — had quarrelled again. Friends forced an entry into their rooms and found Magdalena in a pool of blood and Franz with his throat cut in another room.

His wife recovered. She was pregnant, and Carr supposed that Franz Hofdemel had acted out of jealousy.

Mozart was assumed to be Magdalena's lover and the father of her child. And why could not Hofdemel, who was known to be very jealous, have poisoned Mozart with "aqua toffana," which Mozart himself spoke about? And then have tried to kill his wife and commit suicide?

Carr quotes Otto Jahn as a kind of proof. Jahn, who when visiting Karl Czerny in Vienna in 1852 learned that Beethoven had told Czerny that he, Beethoven, would not have wanted to have had anything to do with a woman who "had had an affair with Mozart."

Mozart's widow Constanze, when 36, got to know Georg Nikolaus Nissen in 1789, seven years after Mozart's death. Nissen, a year older than Constanze, lodged in the same building and was a member of the Danish embasssy in Vienna. They married in 1809.

Up to this time, it has been said, Mozart's widow did not realise the value of the 500 Mozart manuscripts she had in her possession. Only 70 works were published during Mozart's lifetime.

Heinz Gärtner has gone to the trouble to establish just how Constanze conducted herself. He has re-constructed a precise chronology of the history of the*Requiem*, amplified by Constanze's ventures with regard to Mozart's unpublished compositions.

Countess Anna Walsegg died at Stuppach Castle in Lower Austria in February 1791. Her husband secretly ordered a Requiem from Mozart that he wanted to have performed under his own name. Mozart accepted the commission in July.

But Mozart's time was taken up with the première of *Don Giovanni* in Prague, the première of *Titus* and the first performance of *Zauberflöte*. He did not have time to complete the *Requiem*.

He himself lay ill in bed on 20 November 1791. He tried to complete the commission, because he needed money. He had had to send his wife to a cure for her health.

Many writers have concluded that because Mozart's pupil Franz Xaver Süssmayr accompanied Constanze to Baden that he, Süssmayr, was her lover, and that her latest child, her sixth, had been fathered by him and not Mozart. The child, after all, had been born on 26 July 1791 and christened Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart.

Carr is of the opinion that Constanze herself was not sure who was the child's father.

Mozart had completed only a small part of the *Requiem* when he died on 5 December 1791 at one in the morning.

Constanze tried to get the work completed. Firstly by Joseph Eybler, but he declined to do so, then by Mozart's pupil, Süssmayr, who filled out the sketches, repeated what had been composed for the rest of the text so that it was possible to present Count Walsegg with a full score and so demand payment of the rest of the fee.

The Count accepted the score, assuming it was from Mozart's hand.

A copy was sent to King Friedrich Wilhelm II of Prussia. The *Requiem* was performed for the first time in Vienna in 1793, using a copy of the score that Constanze had had produced for herself.

In the same year Count Walsegg performed the *Requiem* as his own composition. A few months later he performed the work again in commemoration of the day his wife died.

There were further performances of the work under Mozart's name, in Leipzig in 1796 with Constanze present.

Now the complications begin. Count Walsegg must have seen that he had been deceived. He was ashamed and withdrew from society.

Constanze negotiated for the publication of the *Requiem* with Breitkopf and Härtel along with plans to publish all Mozart's works. But only the negotiations about the publishing of the *Requiem* went ahead.

Süssmayr, whose handwriting was very similar to Mozart's had twinges of conscience. It became known that he had had a hand in the composition.



Constanze . . . a central role, but as what?
(Photo: Archives)

Another publisher turned up, André — and he had rights on Mozart's estate. Constanze haggled.

The first published edition of the *Requiem* appeared under the Breitkopf and Härtel imprint in 1800 — after difficult negotiations with new diversion and a display of cunning by Constanze that, depending on your point of view, was either outrageous or brilliant.

Dispute over just how much of the work was genuine dragged on for a good quarter of a century. The history of what was "original" and what a copy, what came from Süssmayr and who had the original and whether a copy had been made is long and exciting like a crime story.

Mozart's sons had little to do with one another. They did not see their mother very often. Son Karl was in Italy, Wolfgang in Galicia. They died without issue, in 1844 and 1858.

Constanze, who had returned to live in Salzburg, died in 1842. She had survived Mozart by half a century. Was she behind the prohibition by the censor of the publication of *Wahren und ausführlichen Geschichte des Requiems von W.A. Mozart?*

For us today it is more important to know what really happened in the last year of Mozart's life. It cannot be denied that he asked his friend Puchberg to help him with money more than once. No-one has been able to explain why he needed, in some instances, fairly considerable sums of cash.

It has been suggested that he needed the money because Constanze was ill and had to have treatment that was relatively expensive, without regard to speculations that Mozart himself engaged upon.

Then it was wartime and there were few concerts — this did not mean that music-lovers had repudiated Mozart, however.

Furthermore Mozart received an imperial pension of 800 gulden annually for which he had to do nothing. Concerts earned him more money — per evening about half what he received as the annual pension.

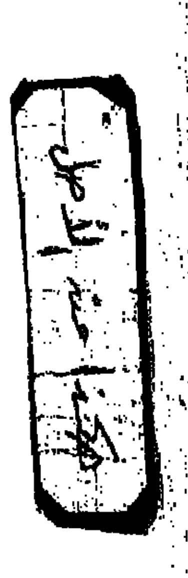
In the last three years of his life Mozart had more to compose than hardly ever before. Almost all this work was commissioned.

It has been calculated that in the year of his death Mozart made *149,000* marks. The impoverished musician?

Mozart considered leaving Vienna to settle down in London. He wanted to go to London on a visit first, accompanied by his wife, of course — so he asked for money. Nevertheless he did not go to England, but went to Frankfurt and Berlin.

Mozart had turned away more and

Continued on page 11



■ FILMS

Award for portrait of an absent protagonist

Frankfurter Rundschau

The Max Ophüls Prize has become the most coveted honour for the younger generation of German film-makers since it was first awarded eight years ago.

No where else but at the award ceremony in Saarbrücken does the cineaste have such an opportunity to see such a cross-section of new German films.

This year there were 30 contributions, which is a bit much for an event that only lasts four and a half days.

It has already been gradually turned into a competitive festival pure and simple for the younger generation of film-makers. This was quite obvious this year. Apart from the 30 films in the competition for the prize there were an additional 28 films in the complete programme.

There were some interesting foreign débuts such as the Black American comedy *She's Gotta have it* by Spik Lee, an amusing beginners' film about Nola Darling, young and beautiful with three lovers. It was cool and taut like a modern dance study.

Or a production from France, also in black-and-white, *Noir et blanc* by Claire Devers, an irritating study about violence, sadism and loneliness. Dominic, a black masseur, lifts the lid off gentle book-keeper Antoine's masochistic tendencies.

There was a retrospective of previous Max Ophüls Prize winners and homage was paid to the East German director Ulrich Weiss, also a member of the jury.

He had considerable success in Saarbrücken two years ago with *Olle Henry*.

The Soviet Union sent Konstantic Lopusanski's *Briefe eines Toten* for the opening. This film depicts a terrifying post-atomic world which nevertheless ends up in a Christian-like idyll — triviality.

No film can properly show what it is going to be like "afterwards." That would mean imagining the unimaginable. It would be a nightmare that was not a part of reality but reality itself.

There was enormous public interest in the films. The small camera cinema was almost full at nine in the morning, and it was bursting at the seams for the afternoon and evening performances. Additional screenings had to be arranged, particularly for *Francesca*, which won the first prize.

This film was a fanciful portrait of a woman artist. Director Verena Rudolph never brings her fictional protagonist to the screen but creates her by having her contemporaries describe their recollections of her.

This method has with it the danger of allowing the film to crumble into individual portraits of the narrators themselves.

Nuclear power and war were not a particular theme among the films in the competition. Reality, as seen by the younger generation of film-makers, is hopeless enough.

For example Switzerland, the chocolate paradise, was portrayed as an inhospitable place. Bernhard Safarik, born in Prague, called the country where he lives as a guest *Das kalte Paradies*.

In his film he tells the story of two men seeking asylum in the Swiss Republic.

Switzerland is no paradise for Bernhard Giger either. Two years ago Giger came to Saarbrücken with his splendid *Gemeinderpräsidenten*. This year he presented his new, somewhat weaker film *Der Pendler*.

It is the portrait of a small dealer, a snooper and police informer. Andreas Loeffel makes the character seedy and horrid, but he also makes him into a poor soul with a potential for tenderness.

Opposite Loeffel Bruno Ganz plays the part of a police officer, boring, indecisive and malicious.

Der Pendler and *Das kalte Paradies* represent a welcome trend. Film-makers are increasingly giving their attention to current social problems, the question of asylum, unemployment, drugs, guest workers, the no-future generation and old people.

There was an interesting contribution from Berlin dealing with "foreigners." Rafael Fuster Pardo, a graduate from the film and television academy, named his first film *In der Wüste*, quoting Samuel Beckett.

He made his film with a budget of only DM30,000. It reports on 24 hours in the life of a young, unemployed Chilean, Fernando, and his Turkish friend Timur.

The film is witty, ironic and with a touch of sadness. Fuster Pardo shows how this Don Quixote and Sancho Panza try not to be pulled down, not to despair as foreigners in a foreign land.

It is lively, particularly in the first part, with laconic dialogue between the two, concise direction and the obvious delight in acting displayed by the two performers.

The most successful scene shows the two, Fernando and Timur, sitting on a bench in the underground, without tickets of course.

To while away the time Timur tells how the week before he was caught on the very same underground platform.



Anti-documentary intentions plus sex without gymnastics, in Martin Krieger's *Zischka*
(Photo: Basis-Film Verleih)

Self-satisfied and oblivious to Fernando's increasing horror, Timur tells how he was treated. "Then they looked up my backside. Whatever for? Well, yes I didn't have a ticket, but..."

Then the film is cut away to show the two on foot under the iron girders of a rail line, hurrying along. Fernando is all nerves.

A new discovery in the festival films was *Zischke*, a black-and-white production set in big-city Berlin, made by Martin Theo Krieger.

The film was made in black-and-white with anti-documentary intentions in mind. A story can be told in black-and-white; colour is just for illustration, for presenting the tourist attractions of Berlin.

Zischke deals with young people, their dreams, experiences and their desires to be independent.

The big city is the theme and the background of this film. Episodes, encounters, short stories are put together in a sophisticated manner.

There is the Arab without a passport, the aliens police, prostitutes, pimps, teachers, one parent mothers and fathers. Throughout the observation is accurate. The details are witty.

An aliens police officer, called "Peter Hanke," is mad on the theatre and is in love with an Arab actress.

The vogue swear-word among Berlin schoolboys and girls is, "you damned tourist." Krieger can direct love scenes, which is becoming an increasingly difficult feat.

When Zischke, aged 15, sleeps with a woman for the first time, the spectator is not treated to a gymnastic display nor does the camera pan into cotton-wool clouds

Zischke is seen standing at a window (watching a car accident), then he creeps uncertainly between the sheets. Cut.

Again a view of the street from the tenth floor of the building. There is a bus giving out smoke, a crushed car, police, curious by-standers. The smoke gets thicker, eventually filling the frame. Curiosity, anxiety, tension, collision. The woman eventually steals from Zischke.

There were no great discoveries at the Max Ophüls Prize festival, but then there were no disasters. The mediocre dominated. Surprisingly many of the films, lacking in artistic quality, were well made.

Heave-ho dramaturgy, pretentious dialogue and fashionably-filmed frames that said nothing, killed dead jarring ideas, themes that had any bite.

Albrecht Stuby, organiser of the Ophüls Prize from the beginning, said in an interview that festival hits often played to empty cinemas after the event. That should change.

There is a public for films such as *Zischke*, *40 M2 Deutschland*, *In der Wüste* or *Konzert für die rechte Hand*. Public curiosity needs to be aroused.

Bettina Thienhaus

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 30 January 1987)

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more from the salons of the aristocracy. His conversion to freemasonry is evidence of this — at this time it was almost dangerous to be a free-mason.

To this can be added that Joseph II was involved in an unsuccessful war and that his successor, Leopold II, had little interest in music.

Reforms introduced by Joseph II, indicative of an astonishing liberalism that Mozart welcomed, were gradually whittled away.

These reforms included discouraging burials with pomp and considerable expense. The burial regulations issued in 1784 demanded that interments of people who were not of the quality (and Mozart could not be regarded as a person of rank) should be without pomp and inexpensive.

Corpses were discreetly collected together until there were enough for one grave, a communal grave. The emperor had also banned eulogies at the graveside.

So what happened to Mozart's body was completely normal, as Volkmar Braunbehrens has shown. There can be no talk of "a pauper's grave," only that he was not buried as a member of the nobility in a family vault.

Nevertheless a funeral service was conducted for Mozart in the Stephansdom in Vienna. In Prague four thousand people took part in a memorial service for the composer.

Burial without ceremony, unaccompanied by family and friends was the way matters were dealt with in Mozart's time. The Mozart legend of the pauper's grave saw the light of day in the 19th century without any knowledge of this 18th century Viennese custom.

Braunbehrens is of the view that 85 per cent of the population were buried like Mozart, conforming to the emperor's reform ideas.

On the day he died Mozart had a few bills to pay but no debts. He could count on soon earning relative large sums of money which enabled him to do what he had so often done in his life, spend money quickly, sometimes in anticipation of earning it.

His daily expenses, his move into relatively pretentious accommodation, the fact that he had placed his son Karl in an expensive private school, that he ran away with a lot more money annually than his father had done in Salzburg in a year, indicates clearly that Mozart was anything but a poor man. He had a middle-class home with a distinguished position in society.

Oddly enough there is always dispute about the causes of Mozart's death. Apart from "poisoning" there is the theory that he had a kidney illness, presented by Aloys Greither particularly, to whom we can give our thanks for his musical as well as medical researchs over the past two decades.

Braunbehrens now believes that uremia, poisoning the body because of a breakdown in the kidneys' functions, has been disproved as the cause of his illness.

A renewed assessment of the witnesses and reports of the time shows that Mozart, who in his youth suffered from rheumatoid arthritis, was ill from a rheumatic fever and died because he was given the wrong treatment.

It would be pleasant, despite the new insights that can be found in Braunbehrens' book, to hold on to the romantic embellishments. But no-one can bypass Braunbehrens' new knowledge.

Wolf-Eberhard von Lewinski

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 24 January 1987)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

What smog? asks Berlin (East) as Berlin (West) gasps for breath

Smog hit many parts of Germany at the beginning of this month. In some places, Hamburg and Berlin, for example, road traffic was even banned for a time, with certain exemptions. Berlin is renowned for its smog. One of its problems is that it is divided. The Western sector has strong environmental regulations but it is surrounded by East Germany, including East Berlin, where regulations are weak. And smog knows no borders.

On the first two days in February Berlin was covered by a pall of pollution so thick that Urban Development and Environmental Protection Senator Jürgen Starnick sounded a Sunday morning Grade I smog alarm.

Berlin had once more lived up to its latter-day reputation as Germany's most smog-hit city.

It was the first time since the smog regulations were beefed up in December 1985 that a Grade I alarm was sounded. The sulphur dioxide and sulphuric dust count had exceeded 1.4 milligrams per cubic metre of air.

A smog alarm was sounded on the Saturday, the last day in January, as pollution levels increased and motorists were told to leave their cars at home.

Householders were instructed to turn down their central heating too, but neither recommendation was mandatory and both were largely ignored.

On Sunday, the first day in February, a full-scale alarm was sounded and a driving ban declared from which diesel and cat cars, buses and taxis, key supply vehicles and trips for the disabled were exempted.

Other motorists could expect to be stopped and fined by the police. Over 70 checkpoints were set up and 14,377 motorists were immobilised in the first 24 hours.

The police imposed 1,673 DM40 fines. The smog alarm was broadcast hourly in German and Turkish by radio.

Most people in the western part of the city soon came to terms with the situation. On Sunday afternoon public transport was more crowded than in weekday rush hours.

On Monday the public transport department was expecting to carry an extra 2.8 million passengers. Ninety additional buses were taken into service but timetables went haywire as buses and trains worked flat out.

By Sunday evening dial-a-cab services were telling callers no more bookings could be accepted. Thousands of callers blocked the emergency switchboards with requests for medical advice.

In a Grade I smog alarm all households and public buildings are required to reduce room temperatures to 18° C (64° F).

People with respiratory and circulation trouble and cardiac complaints are advised to stay indoors.

Parents rang up school to excuse their children. Most children were a couple of hours late for school on Monday morning. A driving ban alone is not enough to reduce serious atmospheric pollution. One Sunday paper was headlined "Pollution Cloud from Dessau Poised Over Berlin." When ground temperatures are lower than atmospheric temperatures and a light southwest wind is blowing, static emission from Dessau, Bitterfeld and Vockerode, an industrial area in Saxony, is blown toward Berlin.



Breathe easy, you're in the West again . . . border checkpoint warns motorists crossing from East Germany into West Berlin of partial traffic ban. (Photo: dpa)

The city's SPD leader, Walter Momper, said on Monday afternoon it was high time the Senate signed an environmental agreement with East Germany and the Federal government lent East Germany funds to fit out East German power stations with the latest pollution control equipment.

Sulphur dioxide and nitric oxides were, he said, the main offenders.

SPD leaflets and questionnaires stressed that smog did not come like a bolt out of the blue. They called on the Senate to introduce cut-price "environmental" season tickets popularised by public transport departments in other German cities.

"Berlin's viability," Momper said, "is identical with its ability to breathe."

t Berlin seemed serenely unaffected by this hue and cry. The air on the other side of the Wall might have been as pure as ever, or at least as harmless as ever for people with respiratory, cardiac and circulation complaints.

While driving bans and heating and production restrictions were imposed in West Berlin it was business as usual in the East. Motorists, industry and the authorities were seemingly unperturbed by radio and TV reports from neighbouring West Berlin.

No official statements were issued about atmospheric pollution levels, let alone about contingency planning of any kind. No comment was available from the environment agency, the Health Ministry, the city council or the Foreign Ministry.

One East Berlin spokesman said there was no occasion for the hue and cry that was being raised in the West. This attitude was partly due to the blame laid by the Senate in West Berlin on industrial and power station sulphur dioxide emission in East Germany.

Party and government officials in East Germany have chosen from the outset to be secretive and sound a confident note on environmental pollution and protection.

They may have been motivated by considerations of prestige and ideological belief. They may also have been worried about the effect on people in East Germany of plain speaking on the subject.

This "no comment" policy applies in equal measure to water, soil and atmospheric pollution. Official statements are seldom made, and then only locally or regionally.

Mention has, for instance, been made of trees dying in the Erzgebirge region. Their demise was plain for all to see. But otherwise the authorities tend to sound a vague note.

Kurt Hager, chief ideological spokesman for East Berlin's ruling Socialist Unity Party (SED), has indirectly admitted that many people are worried about environmental damage caused by atmospheric or water pollution.

He conceded that doubts and fears deserved some kind of official response. But he studiously avoided making any comment of his own.

Atmospheric pollution in East Germany is caused almost entirely by the use of virtually nothing but local, high-sulphur brown coal for domestic heating and to fuel industry and power stations.

SO_2 emission in East Germany, estimated at nearly six million tonnes a year, is said to be twice as high as in the Federal Republic.

In 1985 East Germany was one of 22 states that signed a convention on transnational atmospheric pollution undertaking to reduce CO_2 emission by one third of its 1980 level by 1993.

A West Berlin economic research institute has voiced doubts whether East Germany can afford the investment needed

Yet East Germany has splendid, internationally acclaimed environmental legislation and an extensive system of measurement and inspection facilities.

Environmental legislation is based on a 1970 code that lays the onus strictly on the source of pollution to assume responsibility for the damage done.

A wide range of regulations stipulate pollution levels no less strict than ceilings in force in the Federal Republic. Drastic sanctions are at times imposed too.

But the regulations are riddled with exceptions and loopholes.

The environment debate is kept under strict control in East Germany, with the emphasis on ideological and ecological arguments. Environmental consciousness has been kept at a low ebb as a result.

But it is now clearly on the increase, either because people feel personally affected or because they are paying keener attention to reports from both West and — at times — East.

Sooner or later East Berlin authorities may feel duty bound to follow in Moscow's footsteps and adopt a franker and more open policy on the subject.

M. Heuwagen/A. Hinze

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 3 February 1987)

■ MEDICINE

Big publicity drive tries to slow the tide of Aids

Any ideas that Aids, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, is mainly something African and American and confined to groups such as homosexuals and drug addicts are rapidly being dispelled. European governments are increasing their spending on research and on campaigns to warn people that the risks are much wider. Methods vary from country to country, but everywhere, the use of the condom is strongly recommended for people having intercourse outside a stable relationship. The Bonn government is spending 20 million marks on a publicity campaign. The *Lander* are running campaigns as well. Berlin, which has a high homosexual population, has put an extremely highprofile campaign into operation. According to Professor Völker Wahn, of Düsseldorf University's children's hospital, 1,000 babies in Germany have had Aids transmitted to them while they were in the womb. In this article for the *Nürnberger Nachrichten*, Inge Proll looks at how Germany is shaping up to the growing Aids threat.

Professor Karsten Vilmar, president of the *Bundesärztekammer*, or General Medical Council, says Aids is the modern version of past plagues.

Yet first glance official figures do not sound so alarming. A world total of 38,401 cases has been reported to the WHO in Geneva, while the Federal Health Office in Berlin has 771 cases on register.

About half the known victims have died. But the experts are worried. The reason is that the number of known cases is only the tip of the iceberg.

Between 80,000 and 150,000 people in the Federal Republic have the disease — and many don't know it.

An estimated two thirds will die and many will unwittingly transmit it to others.

So Aids is no longer regarded solely as a disease for high-risk groups such as homosexuals and drug addicts. Anyone with an active sex life is at risk.

Despite intensive research scientists still have no idea how to control it. No Aids victim has been cured. A vaccine is still a distant prospect.

So what can be done? Views differ. Federal Health Minister Rita Süssmuth has set up a commission to collect information about how the disease is transmitted.

Aids is infectious, but anyone can take largely effective precautions.

The disease is known to be transmitted sexually via blood and semen and via unhygienic hypodermic needles.

There are no known cases of transmission via insect bites. Ear-piercing and tattooing can only be an infection risk if needles are used more than once.

The Aids virus can be transmitted via saliva, but no instance of this having been the cause of infection has yet come to light.

So the Health Ministry plans to continue plying the German public with information to make the risk — and the advisable precautions — clear.

Frau Süssmuth is realistic. She well knows that many people will take a dim view of being advised to live chaste and monogamous lives. So she has ignored the advice of Roman Catholic bishops and strongly advised Germans to use condoms.

They may not be 100-per-cent safe but they do reduce the infection risk a lot. Homosexuals and prostitutes are advised to use them; so is everyone who has sex with different partners.

Local authorities and the *Länder* have taken the initiative too, the main aim being to tell the unvarnished truth at school. Youngsters must be made to realise how important precautions are.

Some doctors and politicians, especially members of Herr Strauss's CSU in Bavaria, feel this is not enough.

"Words alone are like plying diabetics with bars of chocolate," says Peter Gauweiler, state secretary at the Bavarian Interior Ministry.

He wants compulsory registration to ensure clear identification of the sick and infected and protection of the healthy. He also wants regular Aids tests for prostitutes, drug addicts and convicts.

Frau Süssmuth's Aids commission feels demands of this kind are little more than calls for action for action's sake.

Compulsory registration could compromise the limited progress made so far. "People who run a high risk of infection," Frau Süssmuth says, "would then no longer voluntarily undergo Aids tests."

Drug addicts and prostitutes would turn a deaf ear to information, medical care and appeals to take precautions. The disease would be out of control among crucial marginal groups in society.

Health department officials and practising doctors say patients whose blood responds positively to the HIV test are scared stiff their names might be disclosed to others.

Most are even more afraid of social isolation — losing their jobs and discrimination by friends and neighbours and at school — than they are of Aids itself.

If people no longer take Aids tests they will have no way of knowing that they are infected and may transmit the disease to their sexual partners.

Compulsory tests for people in high-risk categories would only make sense if the sick and infected were quarantined.

That could only be justified if the disease had a short incubation period and could be cured. With Aids, neither is the case.

What about the tens of thousands of people who are not members of high-risk groups yet are still infected? How are they to be identified? Doctors would need to Aids-test everyone, and at regular intervals.

The virus can only be identified two or three months after infection.

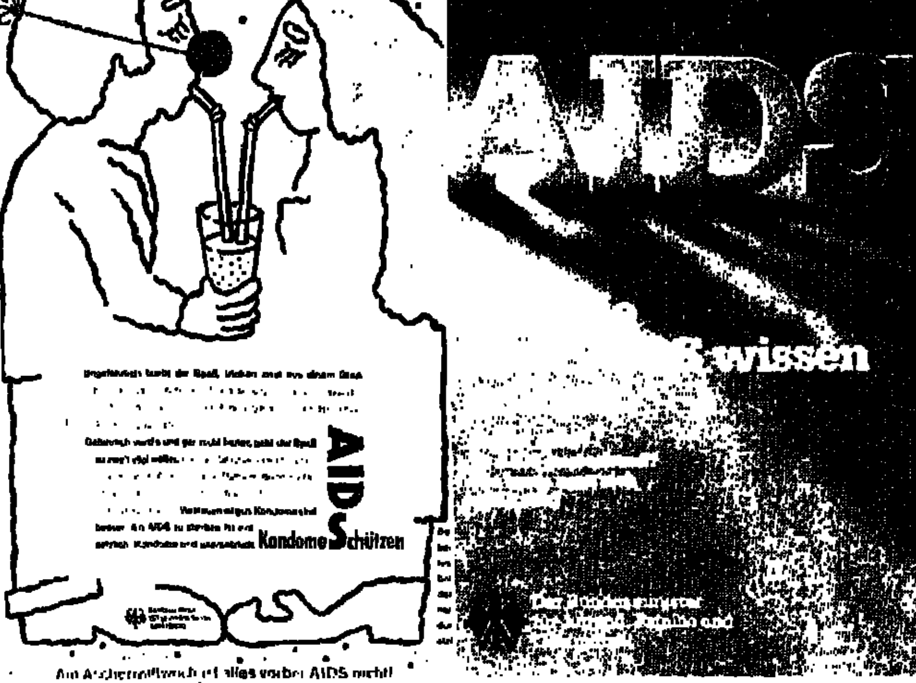
Compulsory Aids tests for all would be extremely expensive. Above all, it could only prevent the disease from spreading if everyone who was found to be HIV-positive was interned for life, which is an absurd idea.

So most experts feel the Federal government has adopted the most promising approach.

Elke Brigitte Helm and Wolfgang Stille, Frankfurt doctors who have been treating Aids patients since 1982, have made more far-reaching proposals.

Their demands include a drastic increase in research facilities and funding of therapy research. That would cost much more than the paltry DM20m Bonn plans to spend on Aids this year. *Inge Pröll*

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 30 January 1987)



Aids poster (left) and brochure.

Babies get a warmer, pinker welcome to the world

Babies are delivered at a hospital near Cologne in a labour ward coloured pink. Lighting and colour scheme are designed to correspond to conditions in the womb.

The idea, pioneered by staff at the Vinzenz Pallotti Hospital in Bensberg, near Cologne, is to make birth easier for the child and to make new-born babies feel more at home.

By the same token, doctors are keen not to interrupt early contact between mother and child even when the baby has jaundice, as eight to 10 per cent do, and would normally be treated in an incubator.

At the Bensberg hospital mothers are allowed to take the incubator's place.

Mother and child are assigned to a special radiation bed designed by Gerd Eldering, head of the gynaecology and obstetrics ward, and psychoanalyst Wolfgang Ernest Freud.

The decisive advantage of this new approach is that mothers are no longer



parted from their babies for the eight to 10 hours a day babies need to be given radiation treatment in the incubator.

They can now suckle their sick babies in a special enclosed bed like a four-poster or even a tent.

It includes a radiation unit mounted above the bed that bathes mother and child in the light and heat needed to cure the jaundice. Baby can be breast-fed throughout.

Eldering hopes new-born jaundice can be cured faster using the new technique, but he readily admits that this is no more than a hope at present. Evidence, let alone proof, is not yet available.

He and Freud, a grandson of Sigmund, both attach great importance to not separating mother and child at this crucial early stage.

Dr Eldering's long-term aim is to carry out infusions or artificial respiration of new-born babies at their mothers' breast and not just in the incubator. This is already done in Amsterdam.

Separation from a new-born baby, especially when it is sick, is an enormous burden for the mother too, of course.

"Everything must be done to ensure that early contacts are undisturbed," says Freud, who has specialised in early post-natal mother-and-child relationships for some years at a London hospital.

He as a psychoanalyst and Eldering as an obstetrician and gynaecologist are convinced this is a crucially important factor in preventing mental problems that may later beset the child.

The two doctors say they hope to partially recreate the warm and cavernous comfort of the womb from which new-born babies have been so unceremoniously ejected. They feel this can only be done by retaining skin contact between mother and child.

The comfort, warmth, smell and heartbeat are what makes babies feel safe, which is crucially important for their development.

Mother and child need not be separated in Bensberg even after premature birth, always assuming the baby is healthy. The mother can take over the incubator role.

She does so by means of the kangaroo's pouch method devised as an emergency technique in the slums of Bogotá and developed in Denmark and Holland.

Dr Elderich finds parents of premature babies readily accept the idea of nestling the baby next to their skin in a shawl slung round one shoulder to form a pouch.

Baby nestles between its mother's breasts (but a father's chest will do the trick too, at a pinch). Body heat takes the place of what would normally be several days — crucial first days of life — spent in an incubator.

Elke Pfaff

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 24 January 1987)

■ SOCIETY

Welfare workers come to aid of Siemens' workforce

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Siemens employs 12 women welfare workers to look after its 215,000 employees in Berlin.

The attitude of the workforce would seem to give the lie to an accusation occasionally levelled by certain group of students that the welfare workers' function is to make workers fit so they can be exploited further by the company.

Talks are confidential and can be about everything. The fact that the 12 have enough to do indicates that they are not regarded as an arm of management.

Sigrid Lucega has been a social worker with the company for 25 years. She says that more than 70 per cent of employees who seek the aid of the team do not have problems related to the work but private worries.

Frau Lucega said the Siemens management had deliberately appointed only women to the team because they took the view that both female and male workers would be readier to talk to a woman than a man.

The view was not entirely without self-interest for, in fact, some executives have called on the social welfare workers during consultation hours. No-one is concerned at visiting the welfare workers for, Sigrid Lucega said, the confidential nature of the talks went without saying.

About a third of the women and two-thirds of the men ask them for advice. The proportion varies depending on which welfare worker is responsible for which plant.

According to Frau Lucega, after any number of talks with employees in trouble, men have the greatest difficulty dealing with conflict situations. A woman puts things behind her more easily.

Women employees go to the social welfare workers mainly because they can no longer cope with things, when they have to handle problems of children, household and parents, apart from their job.

In such cases Frau Lucega calls in "Meals on Wheels" or arranges for her client to have a home help.

Often the Siemens social welfare workers are the link between their clients and the social welfare facilities of the city. For instance when children and parents are at daggers drawn.

It is not enough just to advise parents to go to the Town Hall to the citizens' advice bureau. Frau Lucega and her colleagues sound out various institutions and make appointments for their clients, "because it is a lot easier for someone who is seeking advice to go knowing that he or she is expected."

Frau Lucega often has to consult the guide to the social welfare facilities of Berlin, a collection of loose-leaf information bundled together in a grey file.

For instance a woman who is living alone pours out her heart, because she suddenly develops a feeling that she has wasted her life.

Frau Lucega recalls one other woman who took the long way home so as to delay until the last possible moment arriving at her empty apartment. She feared the loneliness.

Women with problems of this sort are aided by self-help groups or weekend seminars, Frau Lucega said. "Of course when dealing with single parent families I have to watch out to see that the children are well looked after."

The best way to describe Frau Lucega's work is that she tries to give practical advice for people to help themselves.

Visits to employees in hospital are also included in the social welfare workers' responsibilities. Frau Lucega said that she has kept visiting right until the end many women with cancer.

"You have to encourage people without giving them false hope," she said, and she has been much surprised with the gratitude expressed to her because she has listened to people's worries.

She pointed out tha, "Life has become more and more hectic. Who has time to listen to others these days?"

When a pregnant women visits the social workers they move immediately to book a place in a day nursery for the expected child. Frau Lucega thinks, however, that a woman should not go out to work until the child is at least three. "Many women begin work at six, and before that they have to take the child to the day nursery. That is callous. Why can't the husband remain at home?" Frau Lucega asked. The social welfare workers discuss this possibility with their women clients but they dodge the question by saying: "My husband, domesticated? Oh no!"

Frau Lucega has to deal with any number of social problems, including the taboo question of battered women. She said: "They don't go to a doctor, they come to me." In some cases a woman comes into her consulting room and without saying much just lifts up her jumper to show the bruises. The company doctor is then brought in.

These women are found places in homes for battered women, and, of course, Frau Lucega and her colleagues look for alternative accommodation for them in their distress.

This is often not easy when the couple live in a company apartment and the husband denies having battered his wife.

A look at the office shelves shows clearly that one problem predominates: alcoholism.

There are eight different brochures on the subject with titles such as "Alcoholics need consistent bosses," or "Work together against alcoholism."

Frau Lucega said that alcoholism was the most important matter she and her colleagues had to deal with. Employees voluntarily visited the social welfare workers with other problems, "but we put a little pressure when alcoholism is concerned."

Frau Lucega said that it was a social phenomenon that men were the main sufferers. Women are also prone, but they are less inclined to admit it.

A company social welfare worker certainly does not have a nine to five job. Frau Lucega said: "We have to take

Continued on page 15

A first lady at Lufthansa

The first woman to be employed on the flight deck of a Lufthansa aircraft is a 34-year-old American (pictured) named, appropriately enough, Michelle Jett. Miss Jett, who comes from Los Angeles, is a flight engineer on Boeing 727s. The airline has 2,300 flight-deck staff. Four women are being trained as pilots. The first should be flying next year. (Photo: dpa)



Karin Körber . . . believes death is not the end. (Photo: private)

Career: helping the dying to die in peace

Karin Körber, 45, has worked as a nurse with terminally ill people for 10 years. She has no training for the job and receives no pay.

Several years ago, she spent some time in a Berlin hospital with a severe dose of blood poisoning. She was neglected and became an object of unintentional irritation because she did not respond to treatment. She was as helpless as a baby.

The memories of that experience have remained. She is also convinced that death is not the end. She survived her illness and now she is helping the terminally ill to cope in their last days.

But Frau Körber's job is not recognised as a profession. She says nurses should be trained and paid properly.

Behind her is a newly founded organisation, the international association for terminal-illness nurses.

Between 70 per cent and 90 per cent of people die in institutions. Most people would rather die at home. So the association wants to make this possible.

It says that nurses attending the ill at home or in an institution should be able to give their patients a feeling of security as well as relieving pain in their last days.

Frau Körber is an intelligent woman with a positive outlook on life.

Her own sense of compassion drew her into her job. She is married to a sociologist and has two children.

The dying tend to get in the way in a hospital, where everything is geared to maintaining life. It was almost a miracle that Frau Körber survived her time in hospital. It was an experience that changed her life.

She began taking noticed of suffering people. Then she came to identify with them. Although she is a laywoman, her own experiences of death and her own recollections of her fear about dying help her in her work.

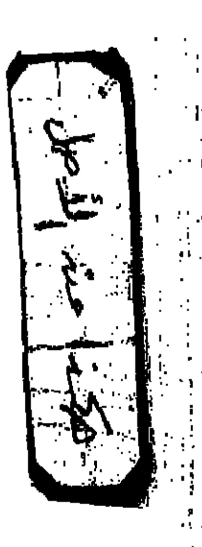
She does not want to go from bed to bed just patting down the pillows. She wants to "create a relationship" with the infirm people she attends. "I want to help them forget their sense of loneliness and their anxieties," she said

Eventually Karin Körber's work will be recognised as a profession. She gives her sympathy to the very end and family and friends turn to her in their grief.

She would like to see the new association half-funded by health insurance schemes and the other half by relatives or social-welfare organisations.

Rosemarie Francke

(Bremer Nachrichten, 26 January 1987)



■ HORIZONS

A million illiterate adults beat education system

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

More than a million adult Germans can neither read nor write. To hide the truth, they often pretend to have a broken arm or to have lost their spectacles.

Klaus hasn't managed to get his driving licence although he started taking lessons two years ago: the theoretical test (which in Germany is exhaustive) has proved so far beyond him.

Klaus, 25, is disappointed with his driving instructor. He said: "I told him that I can't read or write very well. He told me it would be all right, that we would manage it somehow. But it soon became too much trouble for him."

Klaus has resigned himself to travelling to work by tram. But when he sees other people reading newspapers, he gets annoyed with himself. On the journey to his work in north Cologne, he tries to decode the headlines and perhaps even read a short article.

He knows the letters of the alphabet and can write his name. But he is illiterate by the Unesco definition — that includes people who are unable without help to perform certain functions in society like reading maps, writing letters, filling out forms and read instructions, directions, books and contracts.

It is only in recent years that the realisation has dawned that illiteracy is not something restricted to Third World countries. It affects a lot of people in industrialised countries in spite of compulsory schooling.

The number of illiterates in Germany can only be guessed at. There isn't a lot of evidence to go on. The German Unesco Commission estimated in a 1981 study that there were at least one million but that the true figure was probably nearer two million.

An institute in Cologne which deals with further education estimates that in Cologne alone 20,000 adults are affected.

Illiterates feel discriminated against. They are regarded in official consciousness either as mentally handicapped or plain dumb in the wider sense of the word.

They are reminded that there is an obligation to go to school. Their inability is often put down to either lack of interest or laziness.

If there is nobody they can turn to for help in solving routine problems, they begin to develop strategies to disguise their handicap.

They say they have forgotten their spectacles, ask the waiter to recommend a meal, bind their hands up with bandages when they go to a government department and get the clerk to fill out the forms.



Campaign against adult illiteracy . . . memories of school must also be overcome. (Photo: Alfred Koch)

Klaus can tell of some unfortunate experiences. He once worked in a bakery, but because of a flour allergy, had to leave. The local employment office fobbed him off with some blunt advice: "Go home and get some help."

When he told his boss about his problem when he went to work for a car firm, the boss telephoned the personnel department and, in Klaus' presence, snarled: "What am I expected to do with him?"

Such experiences have left their mark. Klaus has become mistrustful. Now he prefers to tell his colleagues nothing rather than run the risk of getting a negative reaction: "They are quick to dismiss you as an idiot. That is the worst of it."

Heinz Varnhagen, head of vocational education at the Cologne chamber of commerce, found that in the past year, no business in the trades has signed a work contract with an illiterate person. He also thinks that career training for illiterates "almost certainly would lead to great difficulty."

Klaus's bakery offered him an apprenticeship before his illness became apparent, but Klaus rejected the chance in favour of a non-skilled job because he thought getting through vocational school would be impossible.

It was only through the recommendation of someone who knew him that he got a job with a company dealing in spare parts for cars. Klaus has since succeeded in coming through his trial period. He says he is coping because he is not required to handle much paperwork.

Illiterates usually dip out during job interviews at the moment when they have to fill out a form with personal details.

Illiteracy in a society where schooling is compulsory can often be traced back to a disadvantaged childhood — separated parents, tension caused by the father's unemployment or alcoholism, for example.

Sometimes it is caused by children having to work or through hearing or sight problems not being recognised or long illness in the early years of school. This can be allied to lack of support from the family.

No one wanted (or was able) to help Klaus with his schoolwork. His parents ran a small shop. This, plus the strain of bringing up five children, was too much for them.

Special school

Soon, Klaus couldn't keep up at school. Then he was sent to a special school for slow learners. Today he says he liked going there because he went into an advanced class. He began to do well.

But as soon as the bigger children noticed he was doing better than they were, he was teased and threatened with beatings.

Out of fear, he stopped going to school and started travelling into Cologne instead. His parents didn't know and it seems that the teachers were not too concerned.

Much later, two friends, both student teachers, tried to teach him reading and writing. In those days there was little in the way of courses for adult illiterates.

Then there is always the problem of motivating illiterates to take part in courses. Courses mean school of some sort. And school, in their limited experience of them, is not a place with happy memories.

When they overcome their reluctance to face another school situation, they must then learn to be patient.

Twice a week for between two and three years are needed to get reading and writing up to a good, usable standard.

Klaus not allowed himself to take this step. He says he is afraid that, once again, he would fail. He intends showing that he can cope without it.

Willi Feldgen

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 2 February 1987)

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care of everything. We sometimes get telephone calls because a person has not been admitted to the company tennis club."

If the social workers have problems of their own their clients do not have to be aware of this. It is important for their work that they appear "lively and jolly."

Sometimes they get holiday picture postcards with expressions of gratitude for what they have done for their clients.

These are the little bonuses they get from their job and strengthen their belief that their work is worthwhile.

Hella Kaiser

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 25 January 1987)